

Ciller pledges democratic reforms

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Tuesday presented her new government programme to parliament, pledging to bring in new democratic reforms and large-scale privatisations. "This government will make historic steps toward democratisation and it needs your support," Ms. Ciller told the assembly, where her right-wing minority government faces a crucial vote of confidence on Sunday. She said the reforms would include revising an anti-terrorist law limiting freedom of expression. The law, embodied in article eight of the constitution, has led to the jailing of numerous intellectuals who have written on the Kurdish separatist struggle in southeast Turkey. Suppression or amendment of the article is one of the conditions the European Parliament has set before it gives the green light to a customs union with Turkey. That agreement is due to go into effect on Jan. 1. Ms. Ciller said that her proposed programme also calls for a new electoral law that is "fair" and legislation to encourage democratic reforms.

LONDON — A cabinet minister has apologised for poking fun at Pope John Paul II and Prime Minister John Major, who is Roman Catholic, during a radio show. New Zealand's foreign minister, Geoffrey Palmer, said the Pope's diplomatic representative complained to Tourism Minister Ian Banks. Palmer conducted an interview Sunday with a cleric who claimed to be a Pentecost, complete with a Pentecost. Palmer's apology came after a complaint from the Vatican. Palmer said he had listened to the programme because he is usually in church on Sundays during the take interview. Banks asked the cleric to apologise to the Pope. Palmer said he had listened to the programme because he is usually in church on Sundays during the take interview.



His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday addresses officers and staff of the Royal Medical Services (Petra photo)

King says opponents of peace are living in past

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday described opponents of peace and normalisation of relations with Israel as those who are "living in the past and are trying to pull us so that we do not move forward" after nearly a half-century of conflict. The King reaffirmed his determination to pursue normalisation of relations with Israel to "make up for all the years that have passed, the loss and pain that we lived through, so that we can lay strong foundations for building a better future for this country."

The goal is to move from where we are to where we are supposed to be," King Hussein said. Addressing the Royal Medical Services (RMS), the King implicitly criticised the Jordan Medical Association which opposes normalisation of relations with Israel. "It's probably wrong to force any physician to join the association and I wonder if such a regulation is constitutional or democratic," King Hussein told RMS officers at the King Hussein Medical Centre. He said the association's task was confined to improving services and performance rather than "getting involved in the labyrinth of politics."

King Hussein said he will ask a legal panel to determine the constitutionality of compulsory membership in associations for all practising professionals. King Hussein praised the efforts of the RMS and pledged to provide the services with all that it requires for its further development.

Self-rule deal under way in W. Bank

Israel evacuates Salfit, will quit more towns today

Prisoner release gets off after confusion, disputes

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI HANDLED over a West Bank village and released several hundred Palestinian prisoners on Tuesday to finally launch the Sept. 28 self-rule accord signed in Washington.

Families waited for almost 1,000 prisoners to return home, in the first concrete results of the deal to extend Palestinian autonomy.

The handover of Salfit after 28 years of occupation to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) came in a ceremony before a celebrating crowd of hundreds in the West Bank village near Nablus.

"It's the start of the redeployment of the military administration," said Colonel David Barel, deputy chief of the occupying administration of the West Bank.

"I wish the Palestinians luck and success with their

new responsibility," the officer said. "I hope there will not be any need to enter this town again."

Ahmad Fares of the Palestinian civil affairs ministry said: "It's a historic day for Salfit... I hope the Israeli government will go on implementing the agreement without any obstacle."

Villagers waved Palestinian flags and portraits of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat during the brief ceremony at the evacuated civil administration building. Plainclothed Palestinian police were also in the crowd.

"This is a new chapter in Palestinian history," said the proud mayor, Hassan Al Zir, who has held his post since 1966, a year before Israel seized the West Bank.

"This evacuation was a surprise for us. We never expected to be the first and

we're very happy," he added. Trucks earlier loaded containers from the Israeli administration building and a nearby army post. Israeli troops also moved out of the village after the handover, with a villager smashing a pot as the last one left in a tradition to ensure he would not return.

"Today Salfit, tomorrow Jerusalem," read a banner strung from the balcony of the municipality.

The evacuation of the village was the symbolic start of an Israeli withdrawal from populated Palestinian areas, under the accord signed with the PLO to embark on the second phase of self-rule.

Autonomy was launched in the Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho in May 1994.

Three other administration offices, in Yatta, Qarabala and Qabaliya villages, are to be handed over to the PNA on

U.N. envoy to ex-Yugoslavia replaced

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. envoy to the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, who has been widely criticised by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries, will be replaced as part of the U.N. peacekeeping transition to multinational command, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday. NATO countries, which are to be part of the new multinational command, have criticised Mr. Akashi for opposing more vigorous action by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in the face of Serb aggression in Bosnia. In 1994 and early 1995, the U.S. press attacked Mr. Akashi's systematic blockade of NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions. The United Nations was careful not to criticise him Tuesday in the announcement of his departure and a spokesman said his reassignment was unrelated to his stance on international efforts to end the war in Bosnia. Mr. Akashi will be replaced by the current head of U.N. peacekeeping operations, Kofi Annan of Ghana, who will also serve in an expanded role as envoy to NATO.

Mubarak, Assad discuss Israel-Syria peace track

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held a summit with Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak here Tuesday to discuss the stalled Israeli-Syrian peace process, officials said.

Mr. Assad was to brief Mr. Mubarak on a meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington last week which failed to produce agreement on resuming Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

The two men first held a meeting together with their delegations, before going into talks alone.

Damascus Radio said the "summit today is part of continued talks which have become a tradition between the two countries and reaffirm Egypt's solidarity with Syria's demands."

"Israel-Syrian negotiations ground to a halt four months ago following a dispute over security arrangements to accompany an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights."

The two countries are also divided on the scope and timetable of a pullback from

Mubarak cables good wishes to King Hussein

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Tuesday received a cable of good wishes from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who was flying over the Jordanian air space en route to Damascus. President Mubarak wished King Hussein every success in leading Jordan's march towards further progress and prosperity.

The strategic plateau, which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

"The arrangements demanded by Israel crystallise the occupation and are dispositions of war while peace is the only guarantee for regional security, an official source said."

"Israel's insistence (on early warning stations) is incomprehensible when the alternative (of satellite surveillance) is more efficient in the era of long-range missiles," he said.

After the talks, President Assad stressed that he will not be pressured into resuming the peace talks because of

Greek church honours King and Crown Prince

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem on Tuesday extended its peace prizes awarded to Israeli leaders to include the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships as well.

It said King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan and Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat were also to be awarded the Golden Peace Prize in recognition of their efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

On Monday, the patriarchate announced the same prizes for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who together with Mr. Arafat were Nobel peace laureates in 1994.

"It was decided, so that there would be no misunderstanding, to give the prize to all these people," said a spokesman for the patriarchate in East Jerusalem.

The patriarchate, which has the largest following among Palestinian Christians, said it had planned to give the award to the five Middle Eastern leaders but did not announce it before.

The statement said Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres would be awarded the prize at a ceremony on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives on Oct. 17. It said the award would be given to King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan in Amman and to Mr. Arafat in self-ruled Jericho, but gave no date for the ceremonies.

The patriarchate said in its announcement: "The decision for the granting of these supreme awards lies within the framework of Christian principles which praise, encourage and reward peacemakers."

Hamas wants stable relations with PNA

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The militant fundamentalist Hamas which is opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord said Tuesday it wanted to establish stable relations with PLO-led Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The desire for improved relations was voiced at meetings in Khartoum where the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and "representatives from Gaza," a Hamas statement distributed here said.

"Hamas reaffirmed its concern to establish stable relations with the Palestinian Authority, with each side maintaining its political convictions, preserving the unity of the Palestinian people and recognising the right to resist the (Israeli) occupation," the statement said.

The militant Palestinian group, which has spearheaded anti-Israeli attacks, said it was ready to resume a dialogue with the Palestinian self-rule authority, but asked it to show the same concern for improving relations and make its position clear.

According to the statement, the meeting in Khartoum was not called to "reach an accord or secure promises

Jordan urges U.N. to end suffering of Iraqis

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan on Tuesday demanded the lifting of the five-year-old U.N. sanctions on Iraq with a view to ending the sufferings of its people and warned of the serious consequences of moves aimed at disintegrating Iraq.

Jordan appreciates Iraq's recognition of its international boundaries with Kuwait and its implementation of other U.N. resolutions, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told the U.N. General Assembly. Jordan hopes that the crippling sanctions, which have inflicted severe suffering on the Iraqi people, will be lifted and that Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity will be safeguarded.

Mr. Kabariti said in Jordan's address to the U.N. General Assembly's 50th session. Jordan also wants to see a quick solution to the problem of missing or detained Kuwaiti citizens, which is a very important issue in view of its humanitarian and legal considerations and its relevance to the U.N. Security Council Resolutions, the foreign minister said.

"Jordan reaffirms its absolute solidarity with the Iraqi people and demands that the Iraqi people's human rights and their aspirations to democracy and freedom be respected," he added.

Referring to the Gulf region, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan was keen on guaranteeing the region's security and establishing strong ties of cooperation with the Gulf countries based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

He said Jordan supports the sovereignty and independence of Bosnia and called for U.N. efforts to halt Serbian aggression on the country.

Mr. Kabariti also called for an immediate lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia to enable it to acquire means for self-defence. Jordan supports U.N. diplomatic efforts to settle the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, he said.

Mr. Kabariti reaffirmed Jordan's support for efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425.

He also called for a just solution to the problems of Palestinian refugees and for

Expelled Palestinians close Egypt-Libya border point

SALLAUM (Agencies) — Some 900 Palestinians trapped between Egypt and Libya closed the border for the third time in a week to protest their plight, a border official here said.

Men, women and children from the tent camp set up by Libya in the no-man's land between the borders gathered Tuesday afternoon on the road between Libya's Misad border post and Egypt's Sallaum post.

They sat down with Palestinian flags on the pavement and stopped all traffic from either direction, vowing the road would remain closed "as long as they are left in the desert," the Sallaum official said.

Dozens of Palestinians also went on a hunger-strike.

A group claiming to represent the 1,000 Palestinians on the border said the strike would last for four days, or until international groups such as the Arab League and the United Nations help them get to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

About 65 Palestinian men abstained from food and drink starting in the afternoon but continued to smoke cigarettes, an Egyptian security source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Women and children did not participate, he said.

An Egyptian border official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, denied Palestinians were adhering to the strike, but it was not clear whether he had visited the Palestinian camp.

Neither Egyptian nor Libyan border guards tried to intervene to reopen the crossing, which is usually crowded with travellers and trucks passing in both directions. Witnesses said traffic has eased recently because of the problems at the border.

One Palestinian man expelled more than two weeks ago ended his week-long hunger strike at the border Tuesday after receiving "promises" that his problem would be resolved, Egyptian police said.

Omar Khodeir was told by Egyptian and Palestinian officials that maximum efforts would be made so that he could rejoin his family "very soon."

Bosnia peace talks to begin Oct. 31

Combined agency dispatches

PEACE TALKS between Bosnia's warring factions will open in the United States on Oct. 31, the State Department said on Tuesday.

The talks, first announced last week, were originally scheduled for about Oct. 25 but were later delayed until Oct. 30 or 31 to avoid clashing with national elections in Croatia. Tuesday's announcement firmed up the start date.

The White House also voiced optimism that the delayed Bosnian ceasefire would go into effect now that a key condition of the agreement — restoration of utilities to Sarajevo — had been met.

"We remain hopeful that the parties will honour their commitments," White House spokesman Michael McCurry said after confirming that Sarajevo had its gas and electricity turned back on.

"We have gas, we have electricity. Technically, the utilities have been restored," U.N. spokeswoman Myriam Snochacki declared.

The Bosnian government said it was ready for a ceasefire with its Serb foes within hours.

Hasan Muratovic, the government official in charge of relations with the United Nations, said the ceasefire, delayed for 24 hours, could begin just after midnight (2300 GMT) if peacekeepers established that "all conditions have been met."

Bosnian Serbs said they were also impatient to start the ceasefire after heavy fighting in northern and western Bosnia this week and a NATO air strike against a Bosnian Serb army command bunker.

The ceasefire should have begun at 00:01 a.m. on Tuesday (2300 GMT). It was held up because the gas exports to Sarajevo from Russia had not resumed.

The Russian gas company Gazprom said the international pipeline was opened at midnight and supplies reached the city during the morning.

The U.N. was expected to call a meeting of the warring sides where Mr. Muratovic

said "we will proclaim the full implementation of the agreement and our army will receive an order for a total ceasefire."

Patchy supplies of electricity were already reaching the city on Tuesday evening after U.N. engineers made emergency repairs to supply lines crossing Serb-held territory around Sarajevo.

Mr. Muratovic did not mention a new pre-condition from Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic for the removal of a Bosnian Serb army checkpoint which controls Sarajevo's access to the airport and neighbouring Croat-held Kiseljak.

The checkpoint was a notorious part of the Serb stranglehold on the city during the

worst of the 3½ year siege by surrounding Serbs.

Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister Hakia Turajlic was shot there by a Serb gunman in 1993 as he sheltered in a U.N. armoured car.

"We can have a ceasefire by midnight today when they remove that checkpoint," Mr. Silajdzic told reporters during a visit to Tunis.

"There will be no ceasefire until they remove it," U.N. spokesman Chris Vernon said peacekeepers would be "extremely disappointed" if Mr. Silajdzic stuck to his demand and prolonged the delay of the ceasefire.

News of the delay had been greeted with despair in Sarajevo.

Mrs. Mitterrand admires Mrs. Clinton
PARIS (AFP) — Danielle Mitterrand admires Hillary Clinton as a powerful woman. The wife of the president, she said, is a woman who takes others into account, who likes community, who likes to be frank. Mrs. Mitterrand never shed from controversy during the 14-year presidency of her husband, Francois Mitterrand. She was a human rights activist who ranked foreign governments with its civil support for dissidents and this minorities.

Inter-family talks mooted as likely way out for maid on UAE death row

DUBAI (Agencies) — A Philippines ambassador said Tuesday he was open to a meeting between the son of a man killed by a young Filipina maid and her parents in a bid to save the maid from execution.

Roy Seneres, the ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) told AFP he was "not ruling out the possibility" of such a meeting and might arrange one if ordered by the court, although none has been scheduled.

Faraj Baloushi, 24, urged an appeals court in Al Ain on Monday to uphold the death penalty against Sarah Balabagan, found guilty last month of the premeditated murder of his father Mohammad Al Baloushi.

The court had asked him if he would accept blood money instead, but he refused.

Mr. Seneres said he and other Philippine officials, including Abdul Wahid Bidin, an envoy of President Fidel Ramos, had their first friendly and informal meeting with Mr. Baloushi at the courthouse on Monday.

"I approached him after the hearing. He's a fine man. He shook our hands as if we were his friends," Mr. Seneres said.

But he stressed: "We did not discuss dhia (blood money). We didn't discuss anything with Faraj about the case. He's entitled to our deep respect. We know how he feels being the son of the man who was killed."

But asked if he would support a meeting between Ms. Balabagan's parents and Faraj Baloushi, Mr. Seneres replied: "I'm not ruling out the possibility. We might do that if ordered by the court."

"We're open to all solutions for the sake of Sarah," Mr. Seneres said.

But the ambassador added: "We're really pinning our hope on the sense of justice of the honourable court of appeal."

UAE authorities have said privately they were urging Mr. Baloushi to consider dropping his family's demand for the death penalty and accept blood money in compensation for the death of his father.

They will continue to make such requests until the "last minute," until the legal process runs its course, an official said on condition he not be named.

Such an approach is in line with Islamic law.

Mr. Baloushi said on Monday that he had been moved by the presence of Ms. Balabagan's family and pleas to save her from a firing squad but he could not abandon his family's demand for her execution.

'Difficult' appeal — lawyer

A lawyer for Ms. Balabagan said on Monday after the Islamic court adjourned her appeal against the death sentence that he expected her to escape execution but she might have to serve time in jail.

Salman Lotfi told Reuters that there had been some confusion when the maid made her appeal to the judges over the killing.

"We have a good case, but this will make it difficult to get her acquitted. There was confusion and this court will look at the same evidence carefully. I think her sentence will be reduced to three or four years in jail but acquittal will be hard," he said.

It is a retrial of an earlier court decision which sentenced Ms. Balabagan to seven years in prison for manslaughter and awarded her compensation after it concluded she was raped.

In the appeal, Ms. Balabagan repeated her claim to a three-judge panel that she stabbed Baloushi in self-defence after wrestling his knife away.

The case has infuriated the Philippines, sparking similar outrage to that which shook the country after another Filipina maid, Flor Contemplacion, was hanged in Singapore in March. She was hailed as a hero back home despite confessing to double murder.

Under tight security, women guards led Ms. Balabagan into the appeal hearing handcuffed and wearing a white veil. She looked anxiously from a courtroom cage at her parents and four-year-old sister, who flew from the Philippines to plead for clemency.

The judges cleared the court of the public and press after defence lawyers said Ms. Balabagan wanted to make a private plea.

The judges said she overstepped her right to defend herself in accordance with Islamic law, a conclusion that Mr. Lotfi said the appeal court could make given the number of times Baloushi was stabbed.

"He was stabbed 34 times. This could be difficult," he said.

Before the court adjourned, a Ministry of Information official tackled seven large pictures of Baloushi after he was killed on the wall of the courthouse lobby.

They showed a frail man who appeared to be in his early 70s lying on his back on his bedroom floor, his waist covered by a white cloth.

Crown Prince condoles family of student killed at school

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday visited the Abu Sumayya family to offer condolences on the death of their son Alaa Abu Sumayya, who was killed by fellow students at school and denounced all forms of violence in Jordanian society.

The Prince, who was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad, called on the Jordanian public to prevent such acts of violence, adding that violence was alien to Jordanian society and custom.

He said that the government and its institutions were determined to prevent any recurrence of such acts and determined to raise the standard of Jordan's educational institutions and guarantee a violence-free educational institutions.

Alaa, 15, was killed on Sept. 25 during school break. According to some sources, Alaa, a 10th grader and one of 1,100 students at the school, was rushed to hospital after being attacked by other students but died on the way. The concerned authorities were reported to have detained some of the suspected students for questioning.

Prince Hassan said that violence in any form was unacceptable, especially in schools and youth centres.

He called on students to comply with regulations, refrain from committing violent acts and follow the principles of the Islamic faith in word and deed.

The mother of the bereaved expressed appreciation of Prince Hassan's visit and his condolences.



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Oslo to extradite Ansari

OSLO (AFP) — The Norwegian justice ministry has decided to extradite Palestinian hijacker Soraya Ansari to Germany over her role in the seizure of a Lufthansa jet in 1977, the ministry announced on Tuesday.

Ms. Ansari, 41, was the sole survivor of a four-member gang which hijacked the jet on a flight from Mallorca, Spain to Frankfurt in Germany.

They demanded the release of 11 members of Germany's Baader-Meinhof gang, two guerrillas from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and \$15 million in ransom.

The justice ministry's decision confirmed a supreme court ruling on Aug. 8 that Ms. Ansari could be extradited to Germany.

The hijackers seized the plane over the Mediterranean on October 13, 1977 and it made several stops before ending up in Mogadishu, Somalia, where the hijackers killed the pilot.

Shortly afterwards West German commandos stormed the aircraft, freeing 87 passengers and the remaining crew and killing Ansari's three fellow hijackers.

She served one year in a prison in Somalia and spent 16 years on the run before being arrested in Oslo last year.

"Despite strong humanitarian considerations we have decided to go for an extradition, especially because the hijacking must be characterised as a grave act of violence," the justice ministry said in a statement.

Mideast remains biggest military spender — IISS

LONDON (AFP) — Middle East countries spend a bigger percentage of their GDP on arms than any other area despite cutbacks forced by low oil prices, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said in a report Tuesday.

From a total spending of \$44.5 billion in 1993, the combined defence expenditure fell to \$42.7 billion in 1994 and should level out at \$41 billion this year, the IISS said in its annual survey.

"The region spends more on defence as a proportion of gross domestic product than any other region," the report stressed.

Should the oil embargo imposed on Iraq five years ago be lifted, however, expenditure could drop even further as crude prices would be depressed for other oil producers in the Middle East and North Africa.

The institute said that if the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) set Iraq's production quota at 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd) that could lead to a 11 to 12 per cent fall in revenue for the six-states Gulf Cooperation Council — unless demand were to increase.

Already in relation to oil-rich Saudi Arabia "questions have been raised about the government's ability to pay for these arms purchases given the prolonged fiscal and current account deficits."

Riyadh acquired in one year 285 Abrams M1 tanks, taking its total fleet to 315, and doubled its contingent of Bradley fighting vehicles to 400.

Although some contracts have been renegotiated, none of them have been cancelled the IISS said, adding the

Rafsanjani in Dhaka

DHAKA (AFP) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived here Tuesday at the start of a four-day visit, the first by an Iranian head of state to Bangladesh since it split from Pakistan in 1971.

Mr. Rafsanjani arrived from Manila at the head of a 100-member delegation to a warm welcome at Dhaka's international airport, where Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia greeted the Iranian leader, who was accompanied by his wife.

Later schoolchildren waved miniature flags as Mr. Rafsanjani drove in a motorcade to the downtown Bangabhaban presidential palace, where he was met by President Abdul Rahman Biswas and reviewed an armed forces honour guard.

Pro-Iranian Islamic groups set up Mr. Rafsanjani portraits and banners to welcome him, and plastered city walls with his picture.

Mr. Rafsanjani's Asian tour, which has also taken him to Vietnam, is being seen in diplomatic circles as a move by Tehran to strengthen ties with South and South East Asia.

An Iranian source said the Bangladesh leg was aimed at "boosting economic ties" and strengthening bilateral relations between "the two brotherly Muslim countries."

The entourage includes Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and several other senior government figures.

Bangladesh officials say they hope Iran will help set up a second oil refinery for the country in the port of Chittagong.

Mr. Rafsanjani is due to fly there Thursday to inaugurate a joint Chamber of Commerce between the city and the Iranian capital Tehran.

He will also talk to business leaders and visit Dhaka University to lay the foundations of a new building to house an Iranian language and research department, officials said.

The Financial Express daily said Tuesday that Iran was trying to use its strategic location on the Caspian Sea to end its isolation since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

According to available statistics Bangladesh, exported goods worth \$32 million to Iran, during fiscal 1994-1995, which ended here in June, including textiles, jute and tea.

NEWS IN BRIEF

7 Iraqis arrested on entering Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait authorities have arrested seven Iraqis who entered the country illegally on Monday, a newspaper reported on Tuesday. The seven said they wanted to escape what they called a tragic situation that had been created in Iraq by the Baghdad government. Al Anba daily reported. Interrogators were continuing to question the Iraqis to learn more about their motives in entering Kuwait. Anba added. An Interior Ministry spokesman could not be reached for comment. Kuwaiti media have reported an apparent upsurge in infiltrations following the defection to Jordan in August of two senior aides of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Iraq-Kuwait border posts have been closed to normal traffic since the 1991 Gulf war that ended a seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. But Iraqis have regularly infiltrated to smuggle goods or seek work or asylum in third countries.

Censorship on local press lifted in Qatar

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar on Tuesday said it had lifted direct censorship of the local press, although foreign publications would still come under watch. The authorities decided "to lift direct censorship imposed on the local press in order to demonstrate their confidence in the press, citizens and Qatari intellectuals." Qatari Information Minister Hamad Al Kowari said. The Ministry of Information had censored working in each newspaper to review reports and editorials before publication. Mr. Kowari urged the newspapers "to make good use of the freedom and respect its demands, objectivity and critical sense," the official Qatari News Agency said. It urged them to "respect Qatar's interests and foreign relations and preserve the customs and traditions of Qatari society." There are five newspapers in Qatar, including an English language daily. Mr. Kowari ruled out a lifting of the censorship of foreign publications, stressing "we stick to the values and principles of our society and oppose others infringing on them."

Iraq criticises journalists covering referendum

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Tuesday criticised foreign journalists as they began arriving to cover a referendum in which Iraqis are asked to endorse Saddam Hussein for another seven years as president. "Does Iraq need the accounts of these journalists, some of whom took part in the campaign against Iraq during and after the (1991) Gulf war?" the official Jumhuriyah newspaper asked. "Some Western journalists come to Iraq with preconceived ideas," the daily said. "Iraqis do not need the accounts of Western democracies, whose warplanes bombed Baghdad and other Iraqi cities. The choice of a president is the business only of Iraqis who do not need legitimacy conferred by people coming from empires who sucked our blood for decades and coveted all our wealth." The Information Ministry said more than 600 Arab and foreign journalists are expected in Baghdad for the referendum, the first in Iraqi history, which will be held on Sunday. Baghdad said it had sent invitations to all media organisations "even those who harmed 'our country' and promised them complete freedom to cover the event. Iraqis also invited 10,000 foreign observers for the poll."

Sudanese rebels hold relief worker captive

NAIROBI (AFP) — Rebels in southern Sudan have been holding a relief worker captive since Sept. 16, the relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) — Doctors Without Borders — disclosed Tuesday. It said it was "deeply worried" about the health and conditions of captivity of Stephen Kaman Gutuman, an MSF logistician being held by a Dinka militia commander Khabuno Kwanyin Bol. He was captured during a surprise attack on the village of Panthou in the northern Bahr Al Ghazal region, an MSF statement said. "All relief workers who were in Panthou were able to flee on foot," it said. "None of the rescue missions were able to find Stephen, who did not manage to escape. Last week it was confirmed that Stephen is being held by Commander Keroubino and his forces in a location near Gogial town." Mr. Keroubino heads a splinter rebel group which is fighting the forces of the mainstream Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Indian prime minister to visit Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is to arrive in Egypt later this week for an official visit that will include meetings with President Hosni Mubarak, state television announced Monday. Mr. Rao, who is to arrive Sunday, will discuss with Mr. Mubarak ways to boost bilateral relations, as well as common interests in regional and international issues, the television said. After his visit to Egypt, which will only last a few hours, Mr. Rao will travel to Columbia for a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement countries. Egypt and India are founding members of the group.

S. Arabia, Yemen draw up security accord

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and Yemen have drawn up a cooperation accord to fight smuggling and drug trafficking, the official agencies from the two countries said Monday. "The Saudi government has approved the signing of the accord with Yemen," the official Saudi agency SPA said. Yemeni Interior Minister Hussein Arab told his country's SABA agency that "the only thing left is his signature." A Yemeni diplomat in Riyadh said earlier in October that the deal would include the fight against terrorism, crime, drug trafficking and smuggling. Saudi Arabia has executed 183 people since the start of the year, most of them convicted of trafficking drugs. The two countries put past differences behind them in February when they signed an accord in principle to end an old border dispute. Riyadh recently allowed its employers to hire Yemeni workers.

Overhaul begins for Chephren, one of three Giza pyramids

CAIRO (AP) — Vacuums started sucking moisture-laden air from Chephren, one of the three famed pyramids of Giza, as the government closed the site Tuesday for a restoration project.

Vapour from the breathing of millions of tourists has taken its toll on the 4,600-year-old pyramid outside Cairo, drawing salts from its huge limestone blocks which weakens them.

A new ventilation system to fight high humidity will be installed during the three-month project, said Abdul Halim Nouredin, head of the government's higher council for antiquities.

"They are sucking out the air with its high level of humidity using vacuums," he told the Associated Press. "Then they will start restoring and fixing the walls and ceiling of the burial chambers and the corridors."

Up to two million visitors enter Chephren annually, each exhaling about 20 grammes of water vapour. The new

ventilation system will change the air inside the structure once every hour.

Chephren's overhaul will keep it closed for at least three months. Repairs will include fixing the cracks in its blocks and giving it a new lighting system and new stairs. Restorers will also open up a previously closed entrance into the pyramid, so that tourists can enter from one side and leave from another.

After Chephren is fixed,

restorers will start a similar project on Mycerinus, the smallest of the three pyramids, the only survivors of the seven wonders of ancient world.

The largest, Cheops, was restored in 1990.

Zahi Hawas, chief inspector of the Giza plateau, said the project marks a government plan to open only two of the three pyramids at any one time, allowing restoration work on the third.

The three pyramids are

named for pharaohs who ruled Egypt during the old kingdom's fourth dynasty, from 2613 to 2494 B.C. They were part of burial complexes designed to preserve the body of the dead leader and enable him to pass safely to the afterlife.

They are among Egypt's most popular tourist sites. The pyramids' treasures were stolen by grave robbers centuries ago, but visitors can still see the bare burial chambers and big stone sarcophagi.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Madeline
14:30 Ghost Writers
15:00 Tomorrow's World
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme — Le Monde Enlouté
17:30 Jency
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushuaia
19:30 New Headline
19:35 Anything for a Laugh
20:00 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterium Universe
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 The Other American
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prim
22:45 Drama — Low and Order
23:45 Doc — Silk Road
00:30 Second Thoughts

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fajr
05:32 (Sunrise) Duha
11:23 Dhahir
14:40 Asr
17:14 Maghrib
18:31 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweilich, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 62826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77524.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assyrian International Church Tel. 623528.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 64195.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop becoming 3 degrees centigrade below average with clouds appearing at low altitudes and with northerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

MIN./MAX. TEMP.

Amman 14/25
Aqaba 19 / 31
Deserts 12 / 29
Jordan Valley 18 / 32

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES:

Amman 28 Aqaba 32 Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent. Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al As'ad 751672
Dr. Yousef Al Fakh 791194
Dr. Mazen Nhal 830435
Dr. Abdul Rahim Masfafa 744685
Fina pharmacy 661912
Forex pharmacy 770336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouh pharmacy 636702
Al Salam pharmacy 636702
Shinchari pharmacy 636702
Nairouh pharmacy 636702
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773
Al Oudh pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khashabshch 983023
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 894590
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 615800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Call 1111230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 681100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

COMPANY:

636381
RJ Flight Information 18-53281
Ouseo Alia Intl. Airport 18-53200

HOUSING:

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669151
Hussein Hospital 843045
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/7
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Italian, Al-Muasher 664164/6
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/126
Army 3Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 612345/581
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 109943323
Zarqa National Hospital 109943323
Jbn Sina Hospital 109943323
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 109943323
DRBD:
Princess Basma Hospital 102375555
Greek Catholic Hospital 102372275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital 102374108

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:50 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
10:30 Jeddah (SV)
12:15 Cairo (MS)
17:30 London, Beirut (BA)
17:30 Athens (PK)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
21:00 Samui (JY)
21:05 Athens (PK)
22:05 Athens (PK)
22:30 Athens (PK)
23:25 Athens (PK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:50 Rome (RJ)
10:30 Madrid (RJ)
10:35 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:40 Berlin, London (RJ)
11:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:45 Istanbul (RJ)
12:20 Colombo (RJ)
12:30 Agata, Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Beirut (RJ)
13:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
13:40 New Delhi (RJ)
14:15 Calcutta, Bahrain (RJ)
14:45 Aden (RJ)
15:15 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
15:45 Samui (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (ME)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:15 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
13:45 Samui (JY)
13:55 Beirut (RJ)
23:10 Beirut, London (BA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Makassar) 620
Cabbage 200/140
Carrot 450/350
Cauliflower 320/220
Cauliflower (small) 200/150
Cucumber (small) 240/160
Garlic 700/500
Grape 700/500
Lemon 550/450
Lemon (large) 250/200
Marrow (large) 200/150
Marrow (small) 300/200
Onion (green) 300/220
Onion (dry) 260/150
Pepper (hot) 200/150
Pepper (sweet) 200/150
Pomegranate 380/280
Pumpkin 330/230
Spinach 250/200
String Beans 800/700
Tomato 110/70

Prince Faisal turns 32 today

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein today celebrates his 32nd birthday.

Born in Amman on Oct. 11, 1963, Prince Faisal received his primary education at the Islamic School in Amman and later in the United Kingdom.

He continued his secondary education in the United States.

In 1981 Prince Faisal joined Brown University in the U.S., where he studied electronic engineering, and graduated in 1985.

Prince Faisal obtained a pilot's licence in 1982.

Back in Jordan Prince Faisal joined a helicopter pilot's training course with the Royal Jordanian Air Force. He obtained his wings in 1983.

Prince Faisal joined the Cornwall Aviation Academy in the United Kingdom and won five awards for excellent performance.

He later graduated from the British Royal Air Force Academy.

Prince Faisal, who is now commander of the Sixth Royal Jordanian Air Force squadron, holds the rank of lieutenant colonel.



He is also president of the Jordanian Gliders Club and the Jordanian Golf Club. The couple have two children, Princess Aya and Prince Omar.

6000 claims for Gulf crisis compensation now being considered by U.N. panel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nearly 6,000 Jordanian applications for individual compensation for losses suffered as a result of the Aug. 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait went on the table in Geneva on Monday for consideration by a U.N. commission.

The Jordanian claims are among 217,000 applications worth \$771 million that the governing council of the United Nations Compensation Commission will study in the three-day meeting.

The claims are in category "A," meaning from those who were forced to leave Kuwait as a result of the Iraqi invasion. Each applicant is entitled to \$2,500.

Category "B" involves those who suffered personal injuries or death of a family member as a result of the

Iraqi invasion and the ensuing war that liberated Kuwait in February 1991.

Category "C" is related to loss of personal property and "D" involves corporate losses.

A United Nations Information Service (UNIS) statement said the Geneva meeting of the governing council of the compensation commission, chaired by the permanent Italian delegate to the U.N. in Europe, Giuseppe Baldacci, will consider 217,513 claims worth \$771,513,000.

A committee of experts has already processed the applications, and the governing council will act upon the recommendations of the committee whether to reject or accept the claims.

Yahya Otaihi, secretary-general of a Jordanian committee which processed all Jordanian claims before presenting them to the

Geneva-based committee, said there were more than 65,000 Jordanian applications under category "A" from among the nearly 115,000 submitted by Jordan.

In three instalments so far, the governing council has approved nearly 40,000 Jordanian applications under category "C" and about 300 in category "B". However, only 241 "B" successful applicants have been paid (\$982,500 paid last year).

According to Mr. Otaihi, the total worth of Jordanian claims approved but unpaid because of lack of funds with the U.N. compensation commission is about \$173 million.

In principle, he said, "these claims have been accepted and awarded but not actually paid, and there is no indication when the payment will be paid."

Jordanian claims unprocessed so far could run into more than \$2.5 billion, including corporate losses.

The UNIS statement said the category "A" claims under consideration in this week's meeting came from 67 countries as well as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The claims filed by the three U.N. agencies are on behalf of "mostly Palestinians who were forced to flee as a result of the illegal occupation of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990-91," said the statement.

"Conclusion of this consideration will bring the total of 'A' claims approved for payment by the governing council to approximately 600,000, for a cumulative value of \$2

billion," it added.

The Geneva meeting was also expected to review the status of applications filed by Egyptians who used to work in Iraq, the statement said.

"It will be considering a report from a panel of commissioners who have been reviewing the Egyptian claim, and will examine the commission's jurisdiction over those claims," UNIS said.

"This concerns about 1.2 million claims, affecting approximately 900,000 claimants, for the dollar equivalents of deposits they had made in Iraq from their salaries, which were not transferred to them after August 1990," it said. "The amount involved is roughly equivalent to \$490 million."

Local firm signs contract to lay JD 850,000 infrastructure for new housing estate

AMMAN (Petra) — A JD850,000 contract was awarded Tuesday to a local firm to carry out civil works and lay the infrastructure for a housing estate to be set up on 190 dunums at Salehiet Al Abed district within the Amman region.

The contract was awarded by the Housing and Urban Development Department (HUDD).

HUDD Director General Youssef Hiyasat said 545 plots have been allotted to build homes for limited income groups.

According to Mr. Hiyasat, the firm will prepare the infrastructure of the housing estate which will include a mosque, a community centre and schools as well as laying sewerage, rainwater draining canals,

electricity and road networks, retaining walls, car parks and public gardens.

The project, which should be complete in 360 days, falls within the HUDD five-year plan which aims at ensuring housing to limited income groups who have not yet benefited from HUDD's housing schemes, according to Mr. Hiyasat.

Beneficiaries will build their own homes once the infrastructure has been completed.

Salehiet Al Abed is one of several 'projects' already carried out in the eastern areas of the capital, Mr. Hiyasat said.

In 1995 HUDD distributed 2,145 plots of land to 21,000 families in Jordan, he said.



Housing and Urban Development Department Director General Youssef Hiyasat Tuesday signs an agreement contracting a local firm to lay the infrastructure for a new housing estate at Salehiet Al Abed district within the Amman region (Petra photo)



Civil Aviation Authority personnel, Civil Defence Department rescue units, Ministry of Health teams, Royal Medical Services staff and Royal Jordanian ground staff Tuesday pool together in a mock emergency drill conducted on the tarmac at Queen Alia International Airport (Petra photo)

'RJ to be official air carrier for MENA summit'

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The official carrier for participants to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit will be Royal Jordanian (RJ), according to RJ Vice President of Marketing and Sales Majdi Sabri.

The arrangement was made with the World Economic Forum (WEF) of Geneva which is co-organising the Amman summit.

"We offered to add two extra flights from one of RJ's stations in Europe on

Oct. 28 (to Amman), and we are also ready to provide any number of extra flights," said Dr. Sabri.

Dr. Sabri said RJ agents offices around the world have been prepared to take on the extra load of work required in reservations and travel information during this special period.

Here, at home base, the national carrier plans to have additional ground staff posted at Queen Alia airport to welcome and assist participants to the conference as they arrive.

Special desks will be opened by Royal Jordanian

at the Royal Cultural Centre and in the major hotels for reservations and information.

The role Royal Jordanian will play in the forthcoming Amman economic forum is not limited to the one of 'official carrier' in the Transportation Committee, Royal Jordanian, represented by Mrs. Ghada Bader, RJ assistant of the vice director for planning, will also present a two-project proposal.

The first project is 'Upgrading Royal Jordanian Engineering and Maintenance' and, according to

Mrs. Bader, it would cost \$11.2 million.

The second project, \$6.85 million worth, aims at strengthening Royal Jordanian's 'Training Centre', for pilots, technicians, managers and sales people. According to Dr. Sabri, though Royal Jordanian Training Centre, located near Queen Alia International Airport, is very well-equipped and already produces very highly qualified staff, this second project reflects the region's bad need of training facilities.



Majdi Sabri

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- * "The Spy Who loved Me" at the British Council at 7.00pm.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Works by Luis Azcarate at Instituto Cervantes, Jabbal Amman.
- * Arabic calligraphy by Ali 'Abdahi at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- * A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Funun, Jebel Weibdeh.
- * Graphic design by Iraqi artist Kazem Shamhoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina.
- * Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.
- * Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel Inter-Continental.
- * Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

French Trio 'Wanderer' finds a new stage in Amman

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Trio Wanderer, one of Europe's best chamber music trios, will perform here tomorrow to play works by Bedrich Smetana, Antonin Dvorak and French composer Ernest Chausson.

The trio was formed in 1987 when pianist Vincent Cog, cellist Raphael Pidoux and violinist Guillaume Surtre decided to join their love for music as well as their talent and perform for audiences from Paris to Moscow, from Salzburg to New York.

In 1995, Mr. Surtre left the ensemble and Jean-Marc Phillips became the trio's new violinist.

Hailed by the greatest music critics and specialised magazines in France and in Europe, as exceptionally brilliant musicians, the Wanderer produce a musical experi-

ence characterised by homogeneity, power, colour, virtuosity and taste. Der Standard, from Vienna, writes: "when an ensemble bearing the name 'Wanderers' comes to perform, we expect something really special."

The Tribune adds: "...the trio shines..." and the legendary violinist Sir Yehudi Menuhin considers them "a beautiful trio who play remarkably."

To top the hill, the Sony Classical Records Company has signed an exclusive agreement with them.

For music lovers, the experience of Wanderer is a rare opportunity to hear chamber music at its best.

The concert will take place at the Amman Baccalaureate School theatre at 8:00 p.m. The Trio Wanderer was invited here to perform by the French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the National Music Conservatory.



The Trio Wanderer

Man arrested for murder of his 17-year-old wife

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police Monday arrested a man in connection with the murder of his 17-year-old wife at their home in Al Sukhneh area in Ajloun, according to police and family sources.

A police official told the Jordan Times Tuesday that M. A., 24, confessed to killing his wife over a family conflict. The official would not elaborate.

But according to a close relative of the family, the victim, identified only as S.A., had received a blow to the head, then was strangled with a rope.

According to the relative, the husband confessed to killing his wife, who is also his cousin, over family and financial problems.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Tuesday said that M.A. had confessed but refused to give a motive for the crime. They added

that they were continuing to investigate the incident.

Man shot in Fuhais

Meanwhile, authorities who performed an autopsy Tuesday on a 35-year-old man who was found shot in a valley in Fuhais, indicated that the man's death was accidental, according to police officials.

"Apparently the man who was descending in the valley slid and a shotgun he was carrying went off. The bullet hit him in the chest," the police official told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Earlier reports by police said that a body of a man identified only as W. A. K. was found lying in a valley in Fuhais with a bullet in his chest.

The shotgun and six live bullets were also found beside his body, the report added.

Police said they had seized the weapon, which

belonged to the victim's father and were investigating the incident.

Two die in road accidents

Also on Monday two people, including one child, were killed in two road accidents in the Kingdom, according to police reports.

In the first incident, an 8-year-old was killed after being run over by a tanker truck in Sahah, police reports said.

Mahmoud Youssef was playing in the street when he was struck by a tanker driven by Khalil Ibrahim.

Police said that the driver was in custody pending further investigations.

In Ramtha, 41-year-old Faris Mohammad was killed instantly when he lost control his vehicle and it rolled over, the reports said. Police said Mr. Mohammad was speeding.

to visit Egypt

up security accord

MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Apples	1.20
Oranges	1.10
Lemons	1.00
Tomatoes	0.80
Cucumbers	0.70
Onions	0.60
Garlic	0.50
Beans	0.40
Peas	0.30
Chickpeas	0.20
Lentils	0.10
Wheat	0.05
Rice	0.02
Sugar	0.01
Tea	0.005
Coffee	0.002
Spices	0.001
Herbs	0.0005
Essential oils	0.0001
Medicines	0.00005
Alcohol	0.00001

Sri Lanka Tamil leader escapes assassination bid; 4 die in attack

COLOMBO (Agencies) — A key Sri Lankan Tamil leader narrowly escaped an assassination bid in which four of his bodyguards were killed during a ferocious gun battle at his home.

The attack on legislator Douglas Devananda, who leads the largest Tamil party in parliament, the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), was a serious embarrassment for the Colombo government, officials said.

Mr. Devananda said he suspected his arch rivals, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were responsible.

The Tamil guerrilla-turned-politician said he fought off the attackers for 20 minutes at his house late Monday. He believed there were five men involved, and at least one of them was seriously wounded.

"It is the LTTE trying to get me. They feel we are emerging as the alternative Tamil leadership. They had also attacked me in recent newspaper articles," Mr. Devananda told AFP.

He said he was slightly injured in the hand as he resisted the assault on his havelock road home in Colombo. The attackers used AK-47 assault rifles, a barrage of grenades and a 40-millimetre rocket propelled grenade, Mr. Devananda said.

"After fighting for about 20 minutes, I withdrew with some of my comrades. There were about five men who attacked us," Mr. Devananda said, adding that President Chandrika Kumaratunga had expressed her concern about the incident.

The attack could not have come at a worse time for the Sri Lankan government which is currently hosting the 41st annual meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

The gunmen stormed Mr. Devananda's tightly-guarded home — considered till then a safe house — despite a tight security alert in the capital involving thousands of police and security personnel.

Colombo had been placed on red alert to provide security for some 350 foreign parliamentarians visiting the capital to attend the CPA sessions which end Friday, officials said.

Deputy Inspector-General H. M. Kotakadeniya said the attackers had escaped in a van and police sounded a city-wide alert to trace the get-away vehicle.

Forensic tests and post-mortem examinations of the four victims will be carried out Tuesday, Mr. Kotakadeniya said. A taxi, a bus and a police vehicle were all hit by bullets dur-

ing the late night battle.

Defence officials said the use of hand-held mortar bombs was a cause for serious concern and signalled that potential LTTE targets would have to take tighter security precautions.

Mr. Devananda acknowledged he was a "difficult customer for the LTTE. Anyway I think it was our lucky day." He said he was on the hit-list of the LTTE which has accused him of being a traitor to the cause of a separate Tamil homeland in the island's northern and eastern regions.

He said Mrs. Kumaratunga had promised to arrange extra security for him and his party which has nine seats in the 225-member National Assembly.

Mr. Devananda's EPDP has been supporting Colombo's drive against the LTTE which is waging a separatist war against Sri Lankan security forces. In 1989, three LTTE gunmen assassinated two top leaders of a moderate Tamil party.

The LTTE has been accused of eliminating leaders of all rival Tamil parties in a bid to lead the Tamil separatist campaign which began in 1972. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka's army chief Tuesday said his troops would capitalise on recent gains in the coming

weeks to capture the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula.

"Nothing is going to stop us," Lieutenant-General Geny De Silva told reporters after addressing troops at the army's 47th anniversary celebrations in Colombo.

De Silva said the army's latest offensive, codenamed "operation thunder strike", had put government troops in a strong position for a final attack on Jaffna town.

The LTTE have admitted losing 260 fighters since Thunder Strike was launched on Oct. 1.

"We feel (the Tigers have suffered) around 300 killed and a similar number wounded and more than half of them, seriously wounded," Gen. De Silva said.

"For a terrorist organisation of that size, this is a severe setback," he added.

Gen. De Silva said the army's aim was to bring the LTTE back to the negotiating table, "but at a better bargaining position for us".

The rebels broke off negotiations and a three-month ceasefire in April and resumed attacks on government troops. More than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year war.

Gen. De Silva said an all-out attack to take Jaffna was on the cards but he did not give a timeframe. Military analysts said the offensive may have to be delayed because essential supplies were still being loaded at Colombo Port.

"The LTTE will try to protect Jaffna at all cost. We know they will not give up without a fight," Gen. De Silva said.

"If and when we take Jaffna, (the LTTE) will realise they have been thrown out of their stronghold and out of their heartland."

The army chief appealed to the rebels not to target civilian areas following an LTTE mortar attack on an old people's home.

The military said Tamil Tiger guerrillas killed nine inmates of a home for the elderly Monday when they fired shells on the town of Puttur.



Police officials examine an office smashed when unidentified attackers fired five rocket-propelled grenades at government headquarters in Karachi (AFP photo)

Detained MQM leader died in Karachi shootout, police says

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Pakistani police said three detained militants of the ethnic Mohajir Qanmi Movement (MQM) were killed Tuesday in a shootout.

They said Fahim Farooqi, alias Fahim Commando, a well-known militant leader, and two other MQM detainees died in a hail of gunfire after police took them to a house identified as an MQM hideout during interrogation.

Police accompanying the three detainees fired back at the house, where one person was later found dead, police said. It was not clear how many gunmen had been inside the house at the time. There were no police casualties, they added.

At the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, a doctor who

asked not to be named told Reuters that police had brought in four bullet-riddled bodies, all shot at close range.

The MQM, which has frequently accused the security forces of killing its militants in cold blood and then saying they had been shot dead in clashes, made no immediate comment.

However, Fahim Commando's death seemed certain to increase tension in the troubled port city of 12 million.

The deaths of the three detainees, who were arrested in August, followed Monday's spectacular grenade assault on a building housing the Sind provincial government.

The MQM has denied responsibility for that attack, in which half a

dozen rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the building, slightly wounding five people, starting fires, smashing windows and spreading panic in central Karachi.

The government and the MQM blame each other for violence that has killed more than 1,550 people in Karachi this year.

The MQM is fighting for more political and economic rights for Karachi's majority Mohajir community, who are mainly Urdu-speaking Muslims who migrated from India after partition in 1947.

Peace talks between the government and MQM began in July, but failed to make progress and are currently stalled.

Robert De Niro held for beating a paparazzi

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.S. actor Robert De Niro was charged for assaulting a videotaping paparazzi in New York City, a police source said Monday. De Niro punched the camera-carrying reporter in the nose after he refused to hand over the cassette of the actor's exit from a Manhattan hangout, the Bowery Bar, at around 1:30 a.m., said police spokeswoman Valerie Saint Rose. The actor, known for his Oscar-winning role in Raging Bull, appeared in court Monday afternoon along with his lawyer to answer to assault charges. His spokesman Stan Rosenfield said De Niro was a victim of a new, more aggressive variety of "video-paparazzi" who provoke actors so as to catch their reactions on film.

Hurley to go Catholic, retreat to Ireland

LONDON (AFP) — Actress-model Liz Hurley is to turn Roman Catholic and retreat to an isolated corner of Ireland to escape press attention over her relations with film-star Hugh Grant, the tabloid Daily Mirror reported Monday. The Mirror quoted William Cash, said to be a friend of Hurley, as saying she had told him, "I've always wanted to convert. I'll be a very good Catholic." The paper said her resolve had been strengthened by a brief encounter with Pope John Paul II in South Africa, where she was filming recently. Mr. Cash also said Hurley, 29, had decided to quit the house she shared with Grant outside Bath, western England, to get away from the paparazzi who had been besieging it ever since Grant was caught by police in a clinch with a Los Angeles prostitute in June. "Not being able to go out to the greenhouse to get your tomatoes without being photographed is awful," he quoted her as saying. The couple's relations have been strained since the incident, and Mr. Cash said it was doubtful whether Grant would want to move to Ireland as well. "I have a clear memory of him shrugging his shoulders when I asked him at a recent LA party whether he was enjoying his country pile near Bath, and replying to the effect that he 'loathed the countryside', he was a city animal," Mr. Cash told the Mirror.

Ancient royal oaks spared at Windsor Castle

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Protesters who had clung to the ancient oaks near Windsor Castle won their campaign Monday as the queen's groundskeepers decided to let the trees be. A half-dozen protesters had camped in the park to protect the trees, and they had won support from locals and conservation organisations. The crown estate announced that 78 oaks, including 20 that dated to 1720, would remain standing in Queen Anne's Ride, a 3-mile (5-km) avenue between the castle and Ascot Race Course. The estate originally had planned to fell all the trees along the avenue, some of them diseased, and plant new ones. Prince Philip, the queen's husband who holds the title of ranger of Windsor Great Park, had been informed of the decision, said Gill Coates, spokesman for the crown estate. "This is very good news," said David Henshillwood of English Nature, the government-sponsored conservation agency. "We are delighted that the older trees in the ride will be left to provide a habitat for the rare insects and fungi that rely on them."

Bangladesh flood survivors return home to hunger, disease

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshis displaced by recent devastating floods have started returning to what were once their homes only to be confronted by hunger and disease, officials said Tuesday.

They said streams of flood survivors had left shelters over the past two days as the water receded from some of the 14 affected districts in the north.

"But there is virtually no structure standing where they can put their heads in, nothing left to eat, no crops in the fields," one official in the district of Dinajpur told Reuters.

"Many people have no money even to buy medicine," he said, adding that government relief efforts were inadequate.

More than 200 people were drowned or killed when their mud houses collapsed. Another 125 died of diarrhoea-related diseases caused by polluted water and rotten food.

The death toll, including those who died of disease, has already crossed 300 and could still go up as thousands of people are suffering from diarrhoea in the flood-swept districts," said one official who declined to be identified.

Witnesses said people brought to shelters by the army and other rescuers were reluctant to leave hut had been asked by local authorities to vacate the camps immediately.

Local authorities said villagers should return to their homes and resume farming for which the government has promised money, seeds and other help.

Disaster management officials Monday said over eight million people had been hit by the latest floods, which washed away 625,000 acres (250,000 hectares) of crops worth \$175 million.

Actual losses could be much higher when the floodwaters fully recede from all areas, one official said.

Communications with many flooded districts were still disrupted, he told Reuters by telephone.

Floods in July and August killed nearly 250 people in the country's northeast, according to official figures.

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ures. Newspapers reported Tuesday that some people were still desperately looking for dry land.

The daily Ajker Kagoj printed a picture showing a man carrying his dead wife on a raft searching for dry land to bury her. The newspaper said Jharna Bibi, 22, died three days ago in Jaipurhat district.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, visiting the flood-ravaged north, alleged Monday that relief and health care efforts were negligible.

Most of the victims have not received a single grain of food aid or any medicine, "although the government is making a big fuss about relief operations," she told reporters accompanying her.

Villagers said they would not be able to resume farming, even though the government offered seed and fertilizer, because they had no animals to pull their ploughs.

According to preliminary estimates, nearly 10,000 cattle were killed by the floods.

Gorbachev: Communism failed, but so did Western policies

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AP) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday that communism and Western economic policies have both failed, leaving two-thirds of the world's population struggling for survival.

He also warned that a return to the cold war is still possible unless countries recognise the forces that shaped the Soviet revolution that brought the end of the cold war.

At a meeting of former world leaders who held power at the end of the cold war, Mr. Gorbachev said the West missed a golden opportunity at the end of World War II to keep the allied coalition together. He said the West continues to misunderstand the reasons behind perestroika and glasnost.

"The division of Europe was a missed opportunity. The cold war is over, but the division could reappear," he said at a televised forum entitled "A World Transformed."

The meeting featured discussions involving Mr. Gorbachev, former U.S. President George Bush, former French President Francois Mitterrand, former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of Britain.

Mr. Gorbachev said a new synthesis for world order is needed going into the next century.

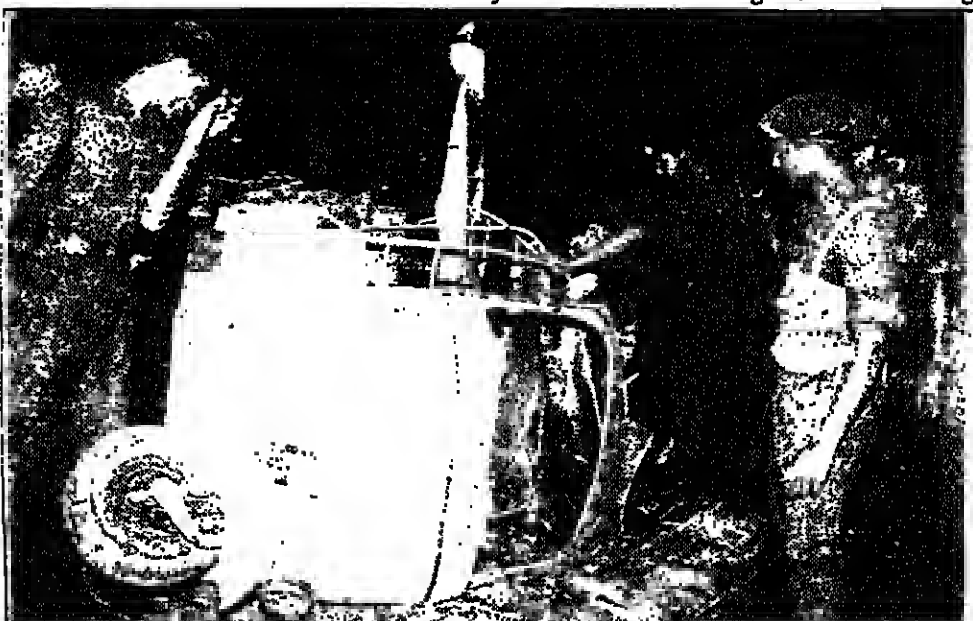
"Communism has failed, but it's also clear the existing (order) based on economic liberalism is only providing a decent living for one-third of the world," he said. "Two-thirds are living in difficult circumstances. If we don't care, we are dead politicians."

Mr. Mitterrand said a new generation is rising that will have to decide whether nationalism or world order is more important. He said the separation of Czechoslovakia is only the beginning of nationalistic breakups.

"Let us hope it is not contagious and spreads," he said.

Mr. Mulroney said it would be a mistake to disband the United Nations, saying Canada would be happy to take it if the United States does not want to be the host country anymore.

Mr. Bush said the United Nations is flawed, but should be preserved. He said the United States must continue discussions with Russia. "We neglect broad strategic discussions with China at our peril."



Soldiers examine a three-wheel taxi that was damaged during a bomb and machine-gun attack on the residence of a Tamil legislator in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo (AFP photo)

Juppe could be indicted soon — reports

PARIS (AFP) — French Prime Minister Alain Juppe could be indicted in connection with a housing scandal in coming days and be forced to resign, less than five months after taking office, press reports said Tuesday.

In the next day or two, Paris prosecutor Bruno Cotte could order a judicial investigation that might lead to prosecution of 50-year-old Juppe for a form of corruption, the dailies the Figaro and the Parisien reported.

If charged with abuse of influence, Mr. Juppe would have to resign under a rule confirmed by President Jacques Chirac when he was inaugurated last May.

Both newspapers quoted informed sources as saying that Mr. Cotte, who ordered a preliminary inquiry two weeks ago, had concluded that the offence of abuse of influence had been committed.

If found guilty, Mr. Juppe could face up to five years in jail, a fine of half a million francs (\$100,000) and exclusion from public office for life.

Mr. Juppe's brilliant political career was highlighted two months ago by revelations that when he was a deputy mayor of Paris, he arranged publicly-owned apartments in the capital for himself, his son and daughter, his ex-wife and his half-brother at below-market rents.

An association of taxpayers alleged that Mr. Juppe abused his powers in 1990 when he set the rent for his own apartment. Since then, a new penal code has made it illegal for municipal councillors to rent municipal housing in big cities.

On Monday the Association for the Defence of Paris Taxpayers (ADCP) published a new document demonstrating that Mr.

Juppe, as a deputy mayor of Paris, had responsibility for allocating city hall housing when he leased the luxury apartment in a desirable area of the capital.

Last Friday Mr. Juppe announced that he was moving out of the apartment. He said his children would likewise move out of their homes.

The new evidence was delivered to Mr. Cotte by ADCP lawyer Arnaud Montebourg. It was a copy of the Paris City Hall's official gazette dated Aug. 29, 1989, signed by the then Mayor Chirac, which stated Mr. Juppe was "in authority" over the running of the capital's housing.

Mr. Juppe leased his 189 square-metre (1,890 square feet) apartment at a monthly rent of 12,000 francs (\$2,400), considered to be cheap for an exclusive district on the left bank.

using," a spokesman at the ministry's Civil Protection Service said.

He said firemen evacuated children from a primary school in the town of Sarzana, at the epicentre of the quake just east of La Spezia, after plaster fell

from classroom ceilings.

The leaning Tower of Pisa, about 60 kilometres south of La Spezia, shook slightly when the quake struck at 7.53 a.m. (0653 GMT) but its stability was not affected, officials said.

The Interior Ministry said the tremor measured 4.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale.

The force is powerful enough to cause severe damage in a populated area but the spokesman said the tremor lasted only three or four seconds, reducing the impact.

"There was some panic but the situation is now calm," he said. "The situation is under control."

5 Muslim militants killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Five Kashmiri Muslim separatist militants were killed in a fierce gunbattle with Indian troops in a town north of here overnight, police said Tuesday.

Police said the firefight erupted after Indian army troops raided a hideout in the town of Sopore used by the pro-Pakistan Muslim separatist group Harkat-ul-Ansar, which has a number of Afghan mercenaries in its ranks.

The fighting in Sopore, a former militant stronghold, lasted more than six hours and left at least five guerrillas dead. No casualties were reported among the army.

Police said AK-47 assault rifles were recovered from the slain militants.

The Indian authorities accuse the Harkat-ul-Ansar of holding five Western tourists kidnapped more than three months ago although the abductions have been claimed by another group, Al-Faran.

One of the captives, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, was killed in August by the kidnappers, who are demanding the release of 15 Muslim rebels from prison in exchange for the hostages.

Harkat-ul-Ansar has denied any involvement in the kidnapping.

Quake causes panic, damage in Italy

ROME (R) — An earthquake shook northwest Italy near the port of La Spezia Tuesday, causing panic and damaging buildings, the Interior Ministry said.

"We do not have any reports of casualties although checks are continuing," a spokesman at the ministry's Civil Protection Service said.

JOB VACANCY

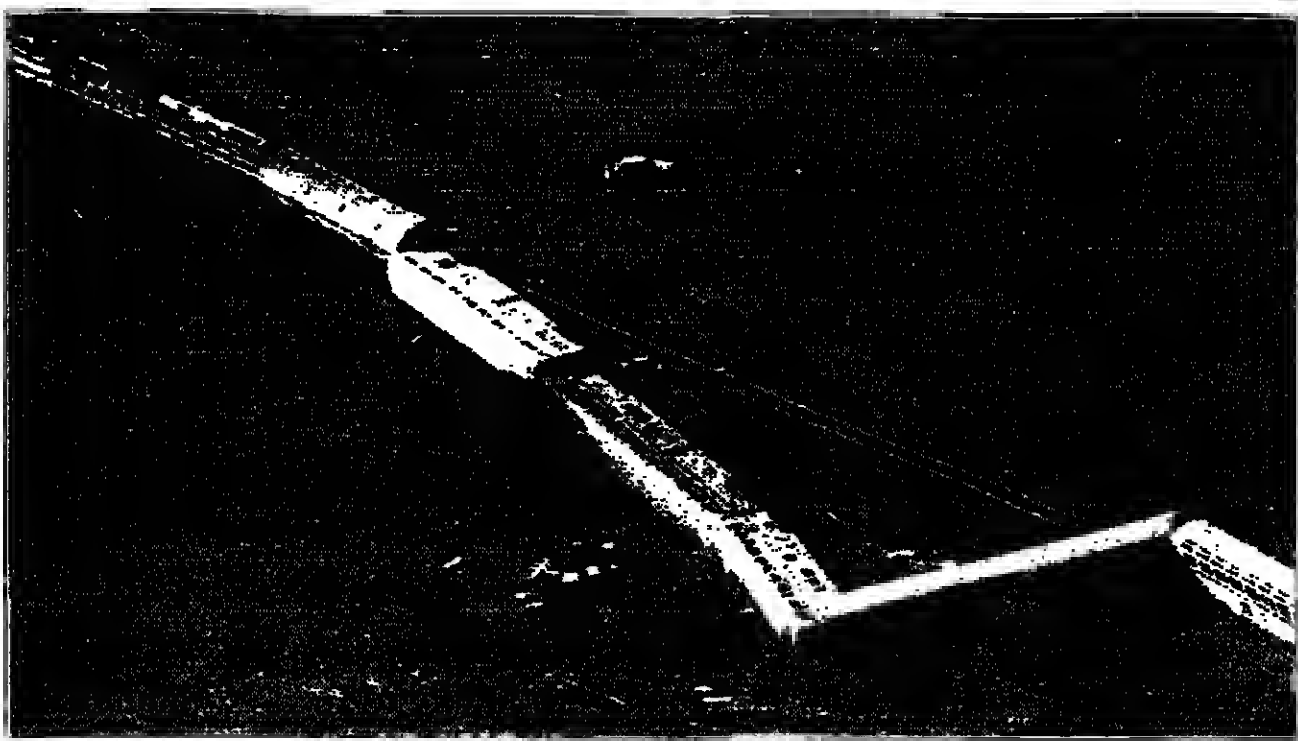
An international NGO is looking for 2 dynamic credit officers for a community-based programme. No experience required, business/economics graduates preferred. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply to: P.O.Box 9363, Amman 11191 - Jordan or fax to 612902, deadline - October 15, 1995.

Robert De Niro
held for beating a
paparazzi

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Robert De Niro is charged for assaulting a videotaping paparazzi in New York City, a police source said Monday. De Niro punched the camera operator after he refused to leave the actor's exit from a Manhattan hangout, the source said. De Niro, 50, is charged with assault on a woman, said police. The actor, known for his Oscar-winning role in "Raging Bull," appeared in court Monday afternoon along with his lawyer to answer the charges. He is charged with assault on a woman, said police. The actor, known for his Oscar-winning role in "Raging Bull," appeared in court Monday afternoon along with his lawyer to answer the charges. He is charged with assault on a woman, said police.

Hurley to go
Catholic, retreat to
Ireland

LONDON (AP) — Actress-model Liz Hurley is to turn Roman Catholic and retreat to Ireland to escape less attention over her liaisons with film stars. Hurley, 34, is said to have converted to Catholicism. The move is thought to be a bid to escape the intense media scrutiny she has faced since her relationship with Michael Jackson. Hurley, who has been in the public eye for years, is said to have been baptized in a private ceremony. She is expected to spend some time in Ireland before returning to the UK. Hurley, who has been in the public eye for years, is said to have been baptized in a private ceremony. She is expected to spend some time in Ireland before returning to the UK.



Rescue workers and vehicles assist at the site of the Amtrak Sunset Limited train after it derailed 60 miles south west of Phoenix (AFP photo)

U.S. train probe focuses on neo-Nazi group

PHOENIX, Ariz. (R)—U.S. investigations looking into the apparent sabotage of a passenger train line focused their attention Tuesday on a little-known neo-Nazi group called "Sons of the Gestapo."

Officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Railroad Administration and Southern Pacific Railroad — which owns and maintains the section of Arizona track involved in Monday's derailment — were sifting through the rubble looking for clues to help identify who was responsible.

The "Sunset Limited," bound for Los Angeles from Miami with 248 passengers, jumped the tracks while crossing a 30-foot (nine metre) bridge 95 kilometres southwest of Phoenix, Amtrak officials said. Mitchell Bates, a 41-year-old attendant died in the crash, and 83 other people were injured.

Authorities declined to comment on specifics of the investigation, but local police said two notes found outside the train offered some clues.

The notes, from a group calling itself "Sons of the Gestapo" referred to incidents at Waco, Texas and Ruby Ridge, Idaho — cases where federal law enforcement officials were involved in deadly shootouts with anti-government groups.

Both incidents have become a rallying cry for right-wing extremists who claim the government is trying to take away Americans' right to bear arms.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said the notes, which spoke of "retaliation for Waco and the siege of Ruby Ridge," were evidence of a planned effort.

"They had a mission and the mission was to destroy that train," Sheriff Arpaio said.

Local authorities and people who follow anti-government groups said they never heard of the "Sons of the Gestapo."

Arizona is known to be home to several anti-government militias.

Timothy McVeigh, one of the prime suspects in the deadly bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building last April, lived briefly in Kingman, Arizona.

Arizona Governor J. Fife Symington, who toured the wreckage Monday night, said the attack was well planned.

"I've never seen anything like it," he said. "You can see it was a well planned act of violence. There was no question that this was a professional job."

He vowed to find the person or people responsible for the incident and "bring them to justice."

Police declined to say if they had any suspects. Two men picked up in the nearby desert Monday were briefly detained and questioned, but were released after detectives were satisfied they had nothing to do with the deadly crash.

At a news conference in Washington Monday, Amtrak President Thomas Downs called the incident an act of "cowardice."

"Someone obviously intended to drop the train off the trestle and into the ravine," he said. "This looks intentional, not an accident. I find it despicable that anyone would jeopardise the lives of Amtrak passengers and crew for whatever purpose."

Downs said a tie bar that keeps rails in line was unbolted and a signal that warns engineers about a break in the tracks had been rewired to hide the gap.

The derailment occurred about 1:30 a.m. p.m. (0830 GMT) as the train crossed a bridge near the small town of Hyder, about 95 kilometres southwest of Phoenix.

The train's engineer reported seeing something wrong with the track and tried desperately to bring the train to a halt.

When the 12-car train jumped the track, a diner and two sleeping cars fell 30 feet (nine metres) into a steep gorge, sending passengers flying around the compartment.

"Almost everybody was asleep," said passenger Kenny Hartman. "Then we just hit. Then the shock came and the panic came."

The FBI, which took charge of the investigation Monday afternoon, sent evidence teams to the site to look for clues and recover the "black box" recorder that tracks the train's speed and other functions. Amtrak said they found no initial equipment problems with the train.

Most of the passengers injured in the wreck were released but 20 people remained in hospital.



Paramedics from the Arizona National Guard carry an injured passenger from the site of the Amtrak train wreck (AFP photo)

Russia botched Chechnya intervention — IIS

LONDON (AP) — Russia's intervention in Chechnya was badly mismanaged and suggests that Western powers seriously overestimated the Soviet Union's military capabilities, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IIS) said Tuesday.

The conflict in the rebel Caucasian republic came at "a very bad moment" for Moscow's army, bogged down by problems linked to the end of the cold war and budget cuts, the institute said in its annual report on Armed Forces Around the World.

"The conduct of military operations in Chechnya by the Russian Armed Forces has been a chapter of disaster which has led some commentators to suggest that NATO had totally mis-assessed the competence and capability of Soviet Armed Forces in the years before the breakup of the Soviet Union," the IIS commented.

After the end of the Soviet era, 37 divisions were pulled out of Central Europe and 57 re-formed in Belarus and the Ukraine.

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Macedonia parliament ratifies accord with Greece

SKOPIJE, Macedonia (AP) — Parliament overwhelmingly ratified an accord aimed at easing tense relations with neighbouring Greece and ending a crippling Greek trade embargo.

Macedonian and Greek foreign ministers signed a U.S.-brokered accord last month to end a four-year diplomatic standoff that threatened to destabilise Macedonia, a traditional tinderbox in the volatile Balkans.

Greece agreed to recognise the former Yugoslav republic and lift a trade embargo if Macedonia removed an ancient Greek symbol from its flag and formally declared that it has no territorial claims on the northern Greek province of Macedonia.

Greece also has strongly objected to Skopje's use of the name Macedonia, an issue that the two sides agreed to deal with separately.

Approval of the measures, considered crucial to tiny Macedonia's chances of economic recovery, went ahead despite an attempted assassination of President Kiro Gligorov last Tuesday in a car bomb attack.

In a show of unity, the parliament voted Thursday to make the change in the flag required by the accords. The remaining legislation was passed Monday.

Tax cuts dominate British Conservative conference

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — A senior government minister warned Britain's ruling Conservatives at the start of their annual conference Tuesday that vote-winning tax cuts would require painful cuts in public spending.

Conservatives, shocked by the recent defection to the opposition Labour Party of ex-minister Alan Howarth, are hoping Prime Minister John Major will revive morale by promising two tax-cutting budgets before the next general election.

But chief Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave, echoing an eve-of-conference warning by Mr. Major himself, said Tuesday that lower taxes would have to be earned.

"The capacity for tax cuts depends on a lot of things. It depends on the overall health of the economy. We are not going to throw away our reputation for sensible fiscal management," Mr. Waldegrave told BBC Television.

Mr. Major, trailing Labour in opinion polls by about 30 percentage points, told Conservative Party workers Monday that the government would have to be "ruthless" in setting its spending priorities so it could carve out room for tax cuts.

The conference, in this northern English resort, started on a sombre note as delegates stood in silence to pay tribute to former Conservative Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home, who died Monday aged 92.

Mr. Waldegrave, a protégé of Lord Home, fired a shot across the bows of right-wingers who believe tax cuts could be funded by an attack on government waste and welfare scroungers.

"Obviously we must do away with waste. Obviously (social security secretary) Peter Lilley is saving money by a redoubled attack on fraud. But it's not just that I don't believe myself that controlling public expenditure is a painless business," said Mr. Waldegrave, whose job is to rein in spending ministries.

Despite his caution, Mr. Waldegrave did nothing to quash speculation that taxes will be lowered before the next election, due by May 1997.

"When it is safe to cut taxes and proper to cut taxes we will do so," he said.

Mr. Major's preference for tax cuts rather than more spending on public services was at the heart of Mr. Howarth's bombshell decision to quit the Conservatives, whom he accused of "an arrogance of power", to join Labour.

He is the first Conservative member of parliament ever to "cross the floor" of the House of Commons to vote with Labour.

His defection reduces Mr. Major's technical majority in the lower chamber of parliament to five, increasing the chances of an early general election.

To revive party morale and prove that the Conservatives are still fizzing with ideas after 16 years in office, ministers plan to unveil a series of eye-catching policies this week.

Mr. Major said they would include action to curb welfare fraud, plans to help the unemployed back into work and steps to raise standards at school.

But his fightback suffered an early blow with the release Tuesday of a poll showing that company managers — a bedrock of Conservative support — appear to be losing faith.

The survey of 370 company bosses by the Institute of Management showed that fewer than one in five believed the government was still in touch with the real needs of business.

"The government's traditional close ties with business are coming apart at the seams," the institute said.

The poll followed the disclosure by sugar producer Tate and Lyle Monday that it was reducing its contributions to Conservative Party coffers because of what it called the "performance" of the governing party.

Taiwan leader says democracy key to China unity

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui marked National Day Tuesday by calling on communist China to respect Taipei's democratic system and urging Beijing to respond to the desire for democracy among its own population.

"The most important precondition for Chinese reunification is totally dependent on the Chinese Communist authorities' respect for the Republic of China's (Taiwan's) democratic system," Mr. Lee said in a keynote speech carried live on state-funded television.

"China has to recognise that it cannot resist the trend of freedom and democracy," added Mr. Lee, speaking to a massed audience of top military and government figures, foreign ambassadors and others in central Taipei.

"If (reunification) totally depends on China's Communist authorities making a sincere response to the desire for democracy from 1.2 billion Chinese people," Mr. Lee said.

Although Mr. Lee has said before that democracy in China was one precondition for reunification, the emphasis he gave it Tuesday elevated it to a position of paramount importance.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 when Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's defeated Nationalist armies lost a civil war in the mainland and fled into refuge on Taiwan. Both governments say they want to reunify but each on very different terms.

Mr. Lee, president since 1988, has won plaudits from the West for democratic reforms due to culminate here in March next year with this island's first direct presidential election.

China has made its opposition to Western-style democracy clear on numerous occasions.

Mr. Lee's comments, following his remarks Monday that China was the biggest barrier to reunification, seemed likely to further strain relations which slumped after Beijing's bitter censure of Mr. Lee's landmark trip to the United States in June.

Taiwan's National Day commemorates a revolution in China in 1911 which led to the overthrow of the Manchu Qing dynasty and the dawn of the Republic of China.

Suharto's daughter visits quake victims

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto's daughter flew by helicopter Tuesday to a remote mountainous region on Indonesia's Sumatra Island to visit villagers displaced by a powerful week-end earthquake which killed 80 people.

Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, known as Tutut, visited the scene in her capacity as head of the Indonesian Red Cross as many villagers prepared to spend another night in rain-soaked tents for fear of further aftershocks.

President Suharto was expected to visit the area Wednesday.

"Mbak (Sister) Tutut flew to the area by helicopter from Jambi this morning," Hendropriyono, a Red Cross official, told Reuters by telephone from Jambi.

"The telephones to the area are still cut so we have no details on the visit."

Senior officials from the Indonesian Red Cross in Jakarta were travelling with Ms. Rukmana to further assess the situation, he added.

The earthquake, measuring seven on the open-ended Richter Scale, struck about 16 kilometres west of the mountain town of Sungai Penuh in the Kerinci Regency, 750 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, as the people slept early Saturday.

Officials at the disaster coordinating post in Jambi Tuesday said that apart from 80 dead, a total of 736 people were seriously injured and 1,520 suffered light injuries.

The earthquake seriously damaged 1,533 houses and slightly damaged another 5,133 structures, with 25 schools and four mosques included in the total, the officials said.

An official at the operations centre in Jambi said there were reports of an aftershock at 3 a.m. (2000 GMT Monday) Tuesday.

However, officials at the nearest Meteorological and Geophysics Agency Centre in Padangpanjang, West Sumatra told Reuters the most recent aftershocks recorded were two on Monday at 1:17 a.m. (1817 GMT Sunday) and 5:20 p.m. (1020 GMT), both measuring 3.0 on the Richter Scale.

One Jambi-based official said the fear of aftershocks was making people too frightened to return to what was left of their homes.

Sungai Penuh, the main town in the Kerinci Regency, has more than 40,000 residents.

Many were expected to spend a third cold night sleeping in tents in the elevated valley, a situation aggravated by recent rains, he said.

Food and medical teams were reaching the disaster despite reports of damaged roads, he said, although poor communications meant reports on their progress were yet to come through.

Officials have defended their relief efforts saying said more than 45 tonnes of rice, 7,000 blankets, 500 boxes of instant noodles, blood and other medicines as well as more than 100 million rupiah (\$44,000) have been sent.

The Kerinci area was last hit by large earthquakes in 1903 and 1943 and geologists believe a 50-year cycle is at work in the region, which sits astride the Sumatra fault.

The last major earthquake on Sumatra near Liwa in western Lampung killed more than 215 people in February 1994.

Roxanne becomes first 'R' hurricane

MIAMI (R) — Tropical storm Roxanne strengthened into a full-fledged hurricane early Tuesday as it swirled through the Caribbean headed northwards toward the Cayman Islands and Mexico's Yucatan peninsula.

The National Hurricane Centre said that as of 2:00 a.m. EDT (0600 GMT), Roxanne was officially classified as a hurricane, the tenth of a busy Caribbean storm season and the first to bear a name beginning with the letter "R."

"Maximum sustained winds have increased to near 75 mph (120 kph)," the National Hurricane Centre said, adding that the storm was expected to continue gaining strength.

The Mexican government has issued a hurricane warning for areas on the Yucatan peninsula and Cuba declared a hurricane alert, preparing for torrential rains.

At 2:00 a.m. (0600 GMT), Roxanne was located about 280 kilometres east-southeast of Cozumel, Mexico, and was headed northwest at 9 mph (15 kph).

Roxanne was born Sunday just hours after hurricane Opal crashed ashore at the Florida panhandle, causing an estimated \$1.8 billion in damage and taking 21 lives in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and North Carolina.

Forecasters said that although Roxanne appeared to be taking a path similar to that of Opal, computer models indicated it would likely veer westward and move across the Yucatan peninsula Wednesday or Thursday.

"It's a little early to push the panic button," said hurricane centre forecaster Hugh Willoughby. "The 72-hour track we're looking at takes it across the Yucatan and into the Bay of Campeche, then probably on into mainland Mexico."

The National Hurricane Centre, which monitors storms in the Atlantic and Caribbean, logged its busiest year in 1993 when a total of 21 tropical storms and hurricanes occurred.

Kim Jong-il appears at N. Korea parade

TOKYO (R) — North Korea's unannounced leader Kim Jong-il made a rare public appearance at a military parade Tuesday to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Communist state's ruling party.

The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said that, in addition to the parade, one million people took part in a rally at Kim Il-Sung Square in central Pyongyang to mark the 50th anniversary of the North Korean Workers' Party.

"The great leader Comrade Kim Jong-il... appeared on the platform," said KCNA, monitored in Tokyo.

"The moment, thunderous cheers of hurrah rocked the square, thousands of air balloons soared and hundreds of firecrackers fizzled," it said.

The parade kicked off with Kim Jong-il receiving a report from newly-appointed Defence Minister Choe Kwang, it said.

"(Kim) raised his hand to return a salute to all the paraders," he said.

It was not clear whether Mr. Kim made a speech at the parade.

The 53-year-old Kim, who is supreme commander of North Korea's 1.1-million-strong military, has yet to be formally confirmed in the two key posts his father held — general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party and state president.

The late President Kim Il-Sung groomed his eldest son for 20 years as his successor. A mysterious, reclusive figure, the chubby, bespectacled Kim Jong-il has already taken over much of the day-to-day running of the isolated state in recent years.

Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency said Monday that Kim Jong-il was poised to assume the post of Communist Party chief on the party's 50th anniversary.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1979.

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Lesson from Abu Dhabi

THE SENTENCING to death of a young Filipina maid in Abu Dhabi for stabbing to death her employer came on the heels of the execution of another Filipina maid in Singapore last March. Whether the stories of the two maids and the many others in similar situations about their mistreatment or attempts to rape them are borne out by facts is not the issue here. What stands out in most of these crimes is the obvious truth that foreign maids serving in most of the developing countries are by and large abused and mistreated by their employers.

Driven by poverty to seek employment outside their countries, maids often fall prey to ill-treatment. This phenomenon calls for urgent attention and redress. To begin with, the countries whose nationals travel to foreign countries seeking such work bear the brunt of the responsibility for them. These states need to adopt clear-cut policies on this kind of employment by restricting the exit of maids to the outside world unless their migration takes them to nations with adequate legislation for the protection of people engaged in house work. Regulation of work hours, on weekends, medical insurance and the like need to be in place before the affected countries agree to let their people take up employment. Above all there must be reasonable grounds to believe that working women, or men, will be treated humanely in the host country.

The receiving state is likewise obligated to legislate specifically on this matter. It is never enough to make laws about residency fees or penalties for over-extending one's stay in the country. There are a host of other issues that also need to be addressed, including the creation of an office for the submission of complaints which guest workers can contact whenever they feel they are being abused or threatened.

This leads us to believe that countries involved in this kind of "business transaction" must enter into bilateral treaties to regulate the employment of maids and other categories of workers. Maids are naturally very vulnerable people because they are often kept behind closed doors. Often they are locked up within the confines of houses where they work with their passports taken away from them for added security to the employer.

Receiving and dispatching states should therefore either stop issuing permits for this kind of work or legislate on it quickly including of course the establishment of a monitoring agency for the implementation of all laws adopted for this purpose. As is, we will continue to hear stories about maids either raped or inhumanely treated or maids killing their employers because often their slave-like work conditions may lead them to criminal action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday echoed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call to the information services, the media and various organisations to be realistic in their discussions and reports on the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be convened in Amman later this month. The summit, the paper said, is a real chance to portray a realistic and objective image of Jordan's achievements and investment opportunities here. But those discussions and reports should also reflect the truth, added the paper. The Kingdom's economic and peace-making achievements should be projected in an objective manner, so as not to conjure false hopes or excessive optimism among the public, said the paper. Noting that the convening of the conference is a fruit of the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince, the paper said that the Jordanian people in both the public and private sectors have a duty to back the leadership in its endeavours to attract investors, enhance stability and security and to further development and progress in the country. The paper observed that Prince Hassan carefully conveyed this message to the information services on Monday, because it is through the media that Jordan can make big gains by relaying the country's bright image and its future role in the region.

A writer in Al Dustour discussed the situation in Algeria and said that France has been forced by a spate of bomb explosions in Paris to offer assistance to the Algerian government to crack down on terrorist groups operating in Algeria. Taher Adwan said that the terrorists, who launched bomb attacks in France, were inviting a great deal of harm for themselves and their country because of the negative image gained by the attacks in addition to the increase of French aid extended to the Algerian government to crackdown hard on the terrorists. The writer said the terrorists' attempt to shift the war from Algeria to France is backfiring and is giving an excuse to the French government to take retaliatory measures against Algerians living in France. Violence is being met with count violence, said the writer, who added that regrettably its origin in Algeria, was triggered by groups who are not in the least concerned about their country's interests.

Egyptian opposition parties divided

By Steve Negus

CAIRO — Hopes that the 1995 People's Assembly elections will produce a more diverse and democratic legislature are waning. Egypt's opposition parties look like they have wasted the opportunity to coordinate a joint campaign for the People's Assembly, leaving the field to a reformed and reinvigorated ruling party.

Though the opposition parties are ideologically closer to the Mubarak regime than to each other, their shared opposition to the security excesses of the last three years — harassment of journalists, the failed national dialogue, military trials of civilians — had created some hope that they could put aside their differences and adopt a joint strategy.

But in negotiations that dragged on throughout the summer, the party leaders were not willing to yield any ground to each other. The original plans for a united front were watered down to a proposal not to contest elections in an opposing party's home territory, party insiders say, and now it appears that even this deal will fall through. In the absence of any combined strategy, it is better for most individual parties to carry favour with the government — sources within the leftist Tagammu say that the party will support a government candidate if there is a danger that an Islamist will win in the district.

In the meantime, the ruling National Democratic party, hitherto an ineffectual amalgamation of local politicians, seems to be transforming itself into a powerful political machine. For previous elections, the NDP simply tried to recruit the most popular politician in any constituency into its ranks, with little regard for ideology. The party was a mixed batch of opportunists who could be counted on to support critical legislation but did little to mobilise their constituencies behind government policy. Today, the NDP is fielding picked candidates backed by a \$50m-strong war chest. It is also enlisting many of the more technocratic ministers, renowned

to include International Cooperation Minister Yusuf Butrous-Ghali, to run in their home constituencies.

The government's strongest opposition this year will probably come from the liberal Wafd rather than the Muslim Brotherhood. A draconian security crack-down has sent the Brotherhood's best organisers to jail and ripped apart its financial structure, at the same time as it has been tarred by the media with the brush of terrorism (MEI 506). The Wafd, meanwhile, has been left alone to hoard its funds and strengthen its grassroots organisation.

President Mubarak has yet to dissolve parliament and inaugurate the campaign season. Opposition insiders say that he is pushing as close as possible to the 13 October constitutional deadline to keep the electoral debate short and not give the parties time to mobilise. But the delaying tactics will probably make no difference. In previous elections, the government has employed just enough coercion and fraud to ensure the

NDP a bare two-thirds majority, just enough to cut off debate in parliament. This year, many political observers are expecting the NDP to eat into the third that usually falls to the opposition. The 1995 People's Assembly elections — the first elections since the Gulf war and the structural readjustment programme, and the first elections contested by all the parties since 1987 — are likely to be a step backwards for the diversification of Egyptian politics.

DDT scandal

In early September, Egypt's opposition newspapers were dominated by the latest in a series of consumer poisoning scandals that have wrecked the government's credibility as a market regulator. This time the crop was potatoes, and the villains were the illegal pesticides DDT and Lindan. But the pattern was the same as in previous scares over meat, canned goods and other commodities — a long period of inactivity followed by sudden and politi-

cally costly action. But in the first week of September, reports began to appear in the opposition press that a government quality control centre had determined in July that pesticide residues on potatoes were 500 times over the acceptable international limit. As rumours escalated, the consumer protection department announced on 5 September that it would confiscate the entire crop. Fist fights broke out in markets across Cairo as agricultural inspectors moved in to seize the crop from traders' stalls.

Egypt's small traders were already a discontented bunch — in June 1994, vegetable vendors rioted against the closure of their traditional markets in central Cairo, and in October merchants struck against a surprise crack-down on smuggling. Though they are unlikely to join the organised opposition, the enmity of the merchants will make it difficult for the state to regulate and tax small businesses.

Middle East International.

A struggling U.N. must now appreciate the art of the possible

By Gareth Evans

NEW YORK — There are many structural changes and personnel reforms that could and should be made within the United Nations system to improve its efficiency. But ultimately the quality of that system depends on what we are prepared to pay for it.

It is important to appreciate the size of sums involved. The core functions of the United Nations — its headquarters in New York; offices in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, and the five regional commissions — cost just \$1.2 billion a year. In 1994, the annual budget of the New York Police Department exceeded that total by \$600 million.

The number of staff needed to run the U.N.'s core functions is around 10,700. Australia's capital, Canberra, employs some 22,000 people on the public payroll.

The cost of the U.N.'s peace operations last year — in Cyprus, the Western Sahara, the former Yugoslavia and 13 other locations — was \$3.2 billion; less than the amount it takes to run three New York City departments (police, fire and prisons).

Add to the U.N.'s core functions all the related programmes and organs and you have a total staff of around 33,000 with a budget (including both assessed and voluntary contributions by member states) of \$6.3 billion a year. That sounds like a lot but it's not quite so much when you consider, for example, that the annual global turnover of just one international accounting firm, Price Waterhouse, is some \$4.5 billion.

Go further, and add to the core functions and related programmes all the other specialised programmes and agencies of the entire U.N. family — including the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Health Organisation, the World Bank and the International Monetary

Fund — and you have a staff of 61,400 and an annual cost of \$18.2 billion.

That may sound like a lot of people, but it's not when you consider that more people than that — 65,000 — are employed by the three Disney theme parks in California, Florida and France. Three times as many people, 183,000, sell McDonald's hamburgers around the world as work for the U.N. system.

And \$18.2 billion might be a lot of money, but just one major multinational corporation, Dow Chemical, which happens also to have 61,000 employees worldwide, has an annual revenue of more than \$20 billion.

When the U.N.'s financial problems are put into this kind of perspective, the solutions do not look quite so hard. Surely the 185 member states, with their combined annual defence expenditure alone of some \$767 billion, can find that kind of money. Of course, the issue of paying for the U.N. has become critical because of the unwillingness, or inability, of so many member states (including some of the largest) to pay their assessed contributions.

There is a short-term problem that can and should be solved within the U.N. system by allowing the U.N. to borrow from the World Bank. Yet there is also a longer-term problem that does not look as though it will be solved, however much U.N. members continue to work at adjusting the assessment scales, exhorting laggards to pay

up and reminding them of the consequences if they don't.

It is, therefore, time to look again very seriously at the options that exist for supplementing contributions from member states by external sources of finance. The practicability of collecting a levy on every one of the annual foreign exchange transactions, worth about \$300 trillion, remains to be fully assessed. If a rate for such a levy of just .001 per cent were struck, which hardly seems likely to have any significant economic consequences, it would generate \$3 billion a year. This levy may be difficult to police and collect. Yet we know that if airline passengers

involve transactions that are international, take place within a framework of law and cooperation provided by the United Nations and can be harmed by a breakdown in global peace and security.

In the past, objections of principle have been raised against any such talk. Member states, it has been said, should themselves own the U.N. system; if the U.N. Secretariat had direct access to revenue from non-members, who knows what adventures it might be inclined to get up to.

But ownership and control are completely separate issues. The U.N. operates on a sovereign equality principle, which means, for example, that those six

the crucial question is how and by whom the money is spent. It is absolutely vital that there be appropriate control of funds by member states, with proper mechanisms for accountability. However, that does not mean that those member states should themselves have to provide all the funds in the first place.

The time is right for the secretary-general to convene a high-level advisory group with an explicit mandate to think through what has hitherto been somewhat unthinkable — how to fund the U.N. system in a way that reaches out beyond the resources that member states are prepared to directly put into it.

The parameters of the



were taxed just \$10 for every international sector flown, which would be easy to collect, it would also yield \$3 billion, nearly the whole annual cost of U.N. peace operations.

There are other revenue options that have, to a greater or lesser extent, the same link with U.N. costs that these do. They also

states that presently pay between them more than 65 per cent of the U.N.'s regular budget should under no circumstances have greater authority over how it is spent than the overwhelming majority of members that each pay much smaller proportions of the total.

Surely, whatever the funding sources involved,

debate must change. But for that to happen, the U.N. needs an authoritative new statement of the art of the possible

The writer is the foreign minister of Australia. The above article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

LETTERS

Misquoted

To the Editor:

Concerning your article "Deputies blame government" (Jordan Times October 10, 1995), I would like to inform you of my appreciation for having covered the three-day seminar on "Parliamentary Work — Realities and Prospects", co-organised by Al-Ukud Al-Jadid

Research Centre and Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Amman office.

Unfortunately, some mistakes about the names of the European participants have slipped into the above mentioned article: It was not Dr. Jan Westbroek who talked on the third day (he had already left for Strasbourg), but Dr. Wolfgang Zeh, senior staff member of the German Bundestag administration. Furthermore, you quoted Dr. Westbroek as

"having said: 'There should be freedom of speech here and I was hurt to see that it was prevented... The exercise of democracy failed to a certain extent.' The origin of this quotation is with the undersigned, even though the intervention was spelled out in different words."

Hubert Dobers
Konrad Adenauer Foundation,
Amman

It occurred to me

By Ali Kassar

Hapless and mapless

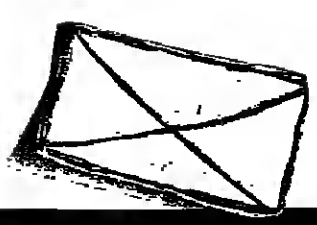
LAST WEEKEND I went to the Citadel, as I often do, for a quiet afternoon's contemplation of assorted ancient rocks. A fellow visitor to this magnificent site, a German tourist, was staring fixedly at a map of Amman. Finally, having found no answer to the puzzle that plagued him, he sought the help of a local expert, yours truly. The map, it turned out, showed a list of hotels (complete with addresses) from which he chose one at Al Jabez Street. Unfortunately, the street index contained no reference to a road by that name. In fact, the map, drawn in the early seventies, contained no reference to three quarters of Amman.

I was pained to confess that I was unable to help the poor man. Each street in our glorious capital city, I was compelled to explain, bears two names. The first name is used by everybody in town. It is generally simple, brief, and bears a relation to the location of the street. The other is selected by the Municipality which, acting in "its infinite wisdom," bestows on the street a name that is long, unpronounceable, obscure, and which often bears no relation to anything known to man. Take, as an example, the road near the Third Circle, known to all and sundry for three decades as Abou Ahmad Street. A hapless tourist who needs to go there and who follows an official publication, viz. the Amman map, would inquire about Deek Al Jinn Al Humsi Street. Ten to one, he will find no one to direct him. Why can't Abou Ahmad Street be called that? Does the appellation Abou Ahmad bear any imperialist or immoral connotations? Everybody in Jordan knows at least one Abou Ahmad, but who on earth is Deek Al Jinn Al Humsi?

Ironically, Municipality employees are just as confused by their work as everyone else. On one occasion, when I needed to direct a town hall inspector to my house, I showed him the map of the site, as prepared by the Municipality, and gave him the address as 3, Ibn Tolon Street. The man lifted his eyebrows till they touched his hairline, as he stared at the hieroglyphics which his colleagues had just prepared, then he squinted nervously for daylight, and asked for the name of a nearby shop which he could use as a landmark.

Seriously, why are there no good tourist maps of Amman and Jordan? Why is the most recent map outdated by a quarter of a century? In three weeks Jordan will host hundreds of the world's top business executives attending the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit. How will they find their way around? Moreover, as the country prepares itself to invite tourists in ever increasing numbers, how will they manage? Much to our shame, the answer is simple. They will use a detailed and up to date map of this country, which can be bought next-door, at any Israeli petrol station, but nowhere in Jordan.





How, working secretly, officials swiftly sealed the cold war

By Joseph Fitchett

PARIS — Somebody should have won the Nobel Peace Prize, but no one did, probably because it seemed so simple at the time — the reunification of Germany. In retrospect, the reunification of the Germanys five years ago Tuesday was the climax of an extraordinary year of intense international bargaining. More got done in months than usually does in decades.

Almost on other event in recent times matches the impact of that reunification. At a stroke, it produced a free Germany, sealed the end of the cold war and helped establish a new Europe. Yet few negotiations of such importance have been concluded so rapidly. It was a model of well-managed Western diplomacy. The handful of people who negotiated the deal rejected scores of often plausible-seeming alternatives, always aware that the wrong outcome could sow the seeds of a future war in Europe.

For the first time, the inside story — what the policymakers thought and did behind the scenes — is recounted by two participants, using interviews and secret documents. The account is in a new book, "Germany Unified and Europe Transformed," published by Harvard University Press and written by Philip Zelikow and Condoleezza Rice, who worked on the National Security Council at the time.

Their account turns up no smoking guns, no secret clauses, no unknown dimensions. But it conveys the sweeping changes devised by a handful of leaders and their aides as they sought to capitalise on a rare, momentary acceleration of history. It also captures the candid exchanges among leaders about long-range fundamentals in Europe, including: — The rooted opposition in Russia to allowing the reunited Germany to stay in NATO.

— The degree to which the German question produced ambitious plans, still largely unfulfilled, for Europe and NATO.

— The pervasive concern to avoid a nuclear Germany.

The extraordinary negotiations were formally the Two-Plus-Four, meaning the two Germanys together with Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, the victorious allied powers in World War II.

In practice, the talks involved only Bonn, Washington and Moscow — and only small, secretive teams in each capital. They ignored their own professional bureaucracies, cautious about changing the status quo, in favour of political leaps to explain this rare, momentous acceleration of history.

Secrecy had costs. Without guidance, the media were rarely pertinent. Conservative commentators — like Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who warned that the Germans would be "worse than the Japanese in Europe" — concentrated on warnings against trusting the Germans. But secrecy did help neutralise opponents of reunification: France, Britain, the Netherlands and the Soviet bureaucracy. They "only had attitudes, not an alternative policy," the authors recall.

The road to unification always led through Moscow, and it opened when the reform-minded Mikhail S. Gorbachev wanted perestroika, his system of liberalisation, to succeed enough that he would accept radical changes in Soviet foreign policy. Although it was not apparent at the time, East Germany's future suddenly became open to question in October 1989, when Moscow learned that East Germany owed \$40 billion to West Germany.

The Kremlin note-taker recorded: "Astounded, Comrade Gorbachev asked whether these numbers are



Germany Day marked on Oct. 1 at Brandenburg Gate with a flag combining the federal states' colours

exact." He did not have to explain that Moscow could not bail out a hopelessly indebted satellite that was considered to be the economic leader of the Warsaw Pact.

The East German regime's vulnerability was exposed a few days later with the collapse of the Berlin Wall. In one of history's biggest bureaucratic blunders, a flustered East German official announced that citizens would be allowed to travel and failed to cite any conditions. Crowds forced open the checkpoints, putting unification on the agenda.

Few people, even in West Germany, were ready for this change. Over the years, the existence of two Germanys had come to be seen as a quasi-permanent feature of the European landscape.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany had fostered the idea that cooperation between the two Germanys could be the starting point

for a new era of reduced East-West confrontation in Europe. Polls showed most West Germans wanted to abandon the goal of unity. Even four months after the wall's fall, an astonishing 58 per cent of West Germans told pollsters that they wanted East Germany to continue as a separate state.

Different political instincts marked Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Horst Telchik, his main diplomatic adviser. They felt that East Germans, once free to choose, would demand to join free, prosperous West Germany, not pursue some uncharted course on their own — a view that the Bush administration backed unflinchingly.

The Bush administration already had been thinking about reunification. Robert Blackwill, who was handling European affairs for Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser to President George Bush, had suggested that renewed emphasis on unity might

counter Mr. Gorbachev's appeals and encourage Germans to continue putting up with U.S. nuclear weapons. Robert Zoellick, then top aide to Secretary of State James A. Baker, had concluded independently that Germany was gaining new leverage between the two superpowers, leverage that needed to be harnessed to the goal of a Germany free, whole and Western-oriented.

The Bush team had tasted diplomatic success six months earlier when a highly secret U.S. initiative on drastic troop cuts in Europe won acclaim at a NATO summit meeting. So secrecy came naturally to a new trio, Telchik-Zoellick-Blackwill, who stayed in daily contact.

"We only had one real worry all the time: I used to wake up in the middle of the night wondering when it would materialise," a U.S. insider recalls. This foreboding was that Mr. Gorbachev would offer Soviet blessing for reunifi-

cation in exchange for German neutrality, a development that would tilt the balance of power in Europe toward Moscow. A public Soviet offer along these lines would have appealed strongly to both Germanys, possibly enough to force Mr. Kohl to reconsider Germany's NATO status. That would have traumatised the U.S. relationship.

Moscow never played the card, apparently because Mr. Gorbachev and his team — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his key aide, Sergei Tarasenko — wanted to avoid a clash.

The key issue was not reunification. That was settled in March 1990, when East Germans voted massively for reunification, confirming Mr. Kohl's political hunch and shattering Soviet self-confidence.

The terms were negotiable for Washington and Bonn, except on a sole point: NATO membership for Germany. Months were spent getting Soviet acqui-

escence. The turning point came in June 1990 when Mr. Gorbachev visited Washington. By this time, the White House felt that the German question dominated all other diplomatic issues. The talks dropped no uddle suddenly, in response to a suggestion from Mr. Bush. Mr. Gorbachev nodded agreement that a country should be allowed to choose its own alliances.

Extraordinarily, a leader had changed his mind at the negotiating table.

Started, Mr. Blackwill passed a note in the president suggesting that he try to get Mr. Gorbachev to say it again.

The Soviet leader did, leaving his aides twisting in their chairs in dismay. Mr. Zoellick calls the scene "one of the most extraordinary" he has witnessed.

Mr. Gorbachev apparently was worn down by the common front presented by Washington and Bonn. Even though it was too late to block Mr. Gorbachev, Soviet conservatives, particularly the military establishment, which apparently had not grasped how far Mr. Gorbachev was going, have never forgiven Russia's civilian leadership.

To sweeten the pill, Washington pushed through a sweeping plan to make NATO seem less threatening and to show that NATO's gain helped Russia's security. That reorganisation failed to sway Russian hardliners and has since blocked deeper changes that strategists believe NATO needs.

Another by-product was spawned by President Francois Mitterrand's obvious distaste for reunification. The mood in Paris had sunk to near-despondency. As a U.S. diplomat reported to Mr. Bush, "Gone is the vision of a Europe managed by equals in Paris and Bonn, with German economic superiority offset by France's nuclear capability."

To salvage the badly strained Bonn-Paris bond, which was needed to reas-

sure the rest of Europe, Mr. Kohl sent Mr. Telchik to Paris for secret talks that produced a joint call for economic and political unity in the EC.

This initiative won European support for reunification and led to the Maastricht treaty.

All along, U.S. officials stressed their view that a united Germany's membership in NATO would lower nuclear tensions in Europe, not least because the alternative, a Germany with on security guarantees, might be tempted some day to go nuclear.

In addition, the Bush administration abruptly changed the nuclear doctrine of the United States, and therefore of NATO, by declaring nuclear arms to be "weapons of last resort." That was Mr. Blackwill's wording, finally put forward by his higher-ranking friend, Mr. Zoellick, and kept secret ahead of a NATO summit meeting in June to avoid allied objections.

The phrase was ambiguous enough to preserve the deterrent threat of "using nuclear weapons first." The shift was endorsed by Western leaders, although Mrs. Thatcher objected that it was too big a concession. "I never had much use for diplomacy anyway," she acknowledged, "and I've got on very well without it."

It was the last concessions. Mr. Baker made it plain that, if Moscow stonewalled, the United States was ready to abandon its rights in Germany — any initiative that Britain and France would join, leaving Russia isolated. On July 13, Mr. Gorbachev, talking with an aide before a state visit by Mr. Kohl, said that "the train has left."

The next day, when Mr. Kohl asked whether a reunified Germany "would be fully sovereign," Mr. Gorbachev said matter-of-factly: "This is obvious."

International Herald Tribune

King assails opponents of peace

(Continued from page 1)

defend the nation. "We have paid a high price that no one can deny," the King added.

The Palestinians, he said, have moved ahead of Jordan and now shoulder their responsibilities to regain their rights.

"We will continue to support them with all our might to help them regain those rights," said the King, adding that Jordan had no ambitions in that except to help them to regain their lands.

He said that the Palestinians should have their own freedom to the future to decide the nature of relations which they would have with Jordan.

Egypt, he said, had led the Arab Nation in wars and later chose the path of peace.

The Madrid conference

brought together all the parties involved in the conflict and Jordan joined in after taking into consideration all aspects of this endeavour, the King said.

"We provided an umbrella to the Palestinians, allowing them to speak for themselves and later they moved ahead and chose their path," he said.

"With the Jordan-Israel peace treaty we have regained our lands and water and we regained an internationally recognised borders," he added.

The peace treaty, he said, created an atmosphere for the Kingdom and its people to pursue the path of development and progress, and "we moved at the right moment to ensure that this will take place."

The King said Jordan was trying to make up for the lost

years and the sufferings of the people and will continue to lay foundations for peace.

"We are in a race against time in order to enable the people what others have achieved so that the people will have the opportunities like others and to prepare the nation to face the future challenges," the King said.

He said Jordan was striving to become a model for the other countries in the region in terms of democracy, political pluralism and respect of human rights.

Referring to the Oct. 29-31, Middle East and North Africa economic conference to be held in Amman, the King said Jordan was preparing for a "major event to the world and to benefit from the experiences of others and to build foundations for prosperity."

Kabariti addresses U.N. assembly

(Continued from page 1)

support for the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in providing the basic services to the refugees until they could be repatriated.

Self-rule deal under way

(Continued from page 1)

illegal entry were among those handed over to the Palestinians.

Up to 1,200 Palestinians were to have gone free "on the signing" of the West Bank deal. A further phase of releases is to take place before self-rule elections.

The releases were marred by delays, confusion and PLO accusations over Israel's refusal to pardon four Palestinian women prisoners despite a clause in the accord that says all female detainees are to be freed.

A senior Palestinian official had said earlier in the day that none of the 500 security prisoners eligible for release Tuesday would leave jail, in protest over the continued detention of the women.

offences. "We are starting a new stage. Our war with the Jews has ended," said Mohammad Jerar, who was just a few days short of completing a seven-year sentence for stabbing a suspected Palestinian informer.

Sami Zahran, who served three years of a seven-year term for weapons possession, said he would not honour the non-violence pledge he signed.

"The occupation is still here and we have to continue resistance until the establishment of a Palestinian state," Mr. Zahran said.

Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi, meanwhile, asked Israel's supreme court to free Israel's government to order the four Palestinian women, saying their continued detention violated the autonomy accord.

Hamas

(Continued from page 1)

in stamp (Hamas) attacks against the Zionist occupation.

"We want to open a real and global dialogue, with an open agenda and no preconditions, with the Palestinian Authority," the statement said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, however, has pledged to fight attacks against Israel as part of the peace process and the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

On Friday, Israeli state radio said that, at the request of Mr. Arafat, the Jewish state allowed members of Hamas to leave the Gaza Strip to meet with leaders of the group in exile in Sudan.

A prominent member of Hamas said meanwhile the group was considering turning itself into a political party ahead of planned Palestinian elections.

Mahmoud Zahar, freed two days ago after more than three months in Palestinian jail, told the Associated Press the group was debating the idea. "We still haven't decided whether to transform Hamas into a political party or to form a political wing within the group," he said.

Tabloids impair the ability of the judiciary to dispense justice, says Henry Porter

ONE ASPECT of last week's coverage of the decision to abandon the trial of Geoff Knights because of wide-ranging press breaches of the contempt law stood out: the rank arrogance of the responses by newspaper editors. When you read Richard Stott, editor of Today, saying that Judge Roger Sanders' remarks were "hysterical," you know that the tabloid press has quite simply lost its ability to function within the law and that the moment for action has arrived.

"If he is saying," blustered Mr. Stott, "that nobody can report a crime in case somebody is later charged with it, it is nonsense."

Of course Judge Sanders was not saying that. What he did say was that the coverage after Mr. Knights had been charged was so damaging to the defendant that it would be impossible for him to receive a fair trial.

Perhaps Mr. Stott does not understand the law of contempt, but this seems unlikely. There is very little room for ambivalence in the law: once somebody is charged, a newspaper may not publish anything which is likely to affect the course of the trial, and that includes interviews with witnesses and remarks about defendants — or, for that matter, the judge. The point that Mr. Stott disingenuously ignores is that the preponderance of prejudicial coverage came after Knights was charged.

Just a few weeks before the commitment proceedings Lynda Lee Potter, the Daily Mail's star columnist, published an interview with Mr. Knights' girlfriend Gillian Taylor, who was to be one of the main prosecution witnesses.

Other newspapers were just as careless of the law: the Sun, the Daily Express and the Daily Mirror were singled out for referring to allegations against Knights when they knew that a trial date had been set.

In total eight national newspapers were said to have openly flouted the law, which does not suggest a misunderstanding in the newspaper world so much as a tacit conspiracy to erode one of the most important principles in British justice.

This issue is not about the freedom to report. It is about the freedom of the judicial system to operate justly and of defendants to be tried in as neutral a climate as possible. There is no public interest principle at stake here — other than the protection of the legal system — and no argument about freedom of speech; just plain and simple law-breaking.

Newspapers are on the whole rather more mindful of the safety of their positions than this behaviour seems to indicate, certainly newspaper lawyers are, and it seems unlikely that these papers would have broken the contempt law if their inhouse lawyers had advised that they risked proceedings in doing so. But the lawyers have been reading the signals given out by the Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, who has shown a distinct reluctance to persecute the tabloids for contempt.

The lawyers must have advised that the risks were slight, and, given the intense competition between tabloids over stories concerning soap stars, the newspapers published, probably drawing a certain comfort from the idea that no Conservative Attorney General would dare to bring proceedings against so many national titles.

It is the scale of the defiance that prompts action against the newspapers now, but it is astonishing that the situation was allowed to get so out of control, for no law officer could possibly fail to see the value of the principle of contempt.

And yet there were these encouraging signals. In 1993 a case against three police officers

accused of perjury in the trial of the Birmingham Six collapsed because of press coverage, but no action against the newspapers followed. In July Michelle and Lisa Taylor attempted to bring contempt proceedings against the Sun, Daily Mirror, Daily Mail and Daily Express for the prejudicial and sensational reporting of their murder trial three years ago.

Their convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal and they decided to pursue the newspapers responsible for the coverage, but were prevented from doing so by the Solicitor General, who in operating on behalf of Sir Nicholas Lyell's office said that contempt proceedings were "not appropriate."

When the sisters challenged this decision in the High Court the judges backed the law officers, although one did concede that the behaviour of the newspapers had "crossed acceptable limits."

It now appears, however, that the judiciary has become frustrated by the Attorney General's lack of enthusiasm in this area. Anthony Scrivener QC, former chairman of the Bar, said that judges thought the Attorney General had not been doing enough and that his laxity was directly responsible for falling newspaper standards.

Clearly Sir Nicholas Lyell could not ignore Judge Sanders' remarks about the press last week and ordered the Solicitor General, Sir Derek Spencer, to launch an inquiry. If proceedings follow — and we must hope that they do — then the Government must take its share of the blame for the ambiguity of Sir Nicholas's stance. There has been very little in the way of clear guidance in the past three years.

There is one other thing in all of this that should not be forgotten, and that is the increasing

recklessness of the tabloid press. This case is not just about the contempt of court; it is about the general contempt for all institutions that exists among the popular newspapers.

The success of the newspapers in exposing so many members of the political and judicial establishment these past years has meant that an understandable reluctance to offend the press has grown up within the establishment.

One must not accuse Sir Nicholas of bringing the next election into his considerations, but there are people in government who allow it to enter their calculations, and this is quite simply wrong.

There can be no doubt, when you hear editors like Mr. Stott speaking, that newspapers today have a much greater sense of their own power than they did five years ago: they have taken on the highest in the land — royalty, judges, cabinet ministers, air vice marshals — and they have usually won. And during this time there has, it seems, been very little to restrain them or to cause them to reconsider their behaviour.

This is an extremely unhealthy situation, and if you want to see where it leads, you have only to look to the United States, where television has acquired very much the same sort of preeminence as the tabloids have in Britain.

American television made the trial of OJ Simpson a farce, which is exactly what the tabloids did to the case of Geoff Knights. It is a development that should not go unchecked.

The Independent

Troubleshooter steps in as Saudi finance minister

DUBAI (R) — A veteran Saudi troubleshooter who is a confidant of King Fahd has been appointed acting finance minister after the minister resigned on health grounds.

Diplomats in Saudi Arabia Tuesday said the switch was unlikely to result in any immediate changes in the economic policies of the world's largest oil producer and exporter.

"I can't see any immediate policy implications in the appointment. It can be seen just as a personnel change," a diplomat in the kingdom said.

The official Saudi Press Agency said Monday that King Fahd had accepted the resignation of finance and national economy minister Suleiman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Sulaim for health reasons after less than three months in the post.

The acting minister, Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah Al Khawateer, is an adept technocrat who has won a name as the kingdom's troubleshooter, the diplomats said.

The 69-year-old Khawateer's career includes spells as

acting minister of health, agriculture and information. He has also acted as a special envoy of King Fahd to Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen and Syria.

Seen by diplomats as a man for difficult jobs, Sheikh Khawateer has been in charge of talks with Yemen aimed at solving a 60-year border dispute between the two states.

Diplomats said that Sheikh Khawateer would aim to carry through the policies set in the country's sixth economic plan approved in July for the year 1995 to 2000.

"The plan aims to reduce dependence on oil and nurture a greater role for the private sector in the economy."

"He will continue the policy of keeping tight control on public spending time and encouraging the policy of the shift to the private sector," a Western diplomat said.

"The policy has been etched in stone in the plan. Khawateer will follow the plan," another diplomat said.

Under the plan the private sector is promised a larger role in the economy to get projects started without

adding to the burdens of the state budget.

The introduction of rules for a long-awaited privatisation programme is also expected next year.

Saudi Arabia's budget for 1995 forecasts a deficit of \$4 billion despite revenues of \$36 billion and economists expect further cost-cutting policies next year to keep state spending in check and the budget close to balance.

As Finance Minister, Sheikh Khawateer is expected to sit on the country's supreme petroleum council with Oil Minister Ali Bin Ibrahim Al Nuaimi, who has day-to-day responsibility for the kingdom's oil output of eight million barrels per day (b/d).

"Finance and oil ministers have similar goals — to maximise revenues from oil sales and to ensure in the long run that the oil price is not so high that it will encourage the development of other resources," an economist in Bahrain said.

Some three-quarters of government income derives from Saudi Arabia's crude oil and petroleum product exports, the diplomats said.

U.S. economist Lucas wins Nobel prize for inflation-unemployment link

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — U.S. Professor Robert Lucas won the 1995 Nobel prize for economics Tuesday for showing that attempts to boost employment with inflationary policies are bound to fail. By showing how people's expectations adapt to, and preempt, policy, Dr. Lucas has led many countries to strive for "a low and stable inflation rate," the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences said in announcing the award.

Dr. Lucas had done more than any other economist to influence macroeconomic research since 1970, it said.

The jury awarded the prize to Dr. Lucas, a 58-year-old professor at the University of Chicago, "for having developed and applied the hypothesis of rational expectations."

His work had "transformed macroeconomic analysis and deepened our understanding of economic policy."

Born in 1937 in Yakima, Washington, Dr. Lucas is also second vice-president of the Econometric Society, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

He received his PhD in economics from the University of Chicago in 1964. He

began his career as assistant professor of economics in 1963 at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he became associate professor in 1967 and professor of economics in 1970.

The academy, giving its reasons for the award, concentrated on how Dr. Lucas had thrown light on one of the great policy dilemmas facing governments in a climate of rising inflation and deepening cycles of unemployment since the 1960s and which today dominates economic management in industrialised nations.

It took as a key example the original understanding of the so-called Phillips curve named after the economist who first established a relationship between inflation and employment in the form of an ever-steepening graph.

A top economist here, commenting on the award, said that Dr. Lucas had turned interpretation of the Phillips curve upside down, showing a link between inflation and unemployment.

The academy said that 20 years ago the curve was interpreted on the basis that ordinary people set their targets for such things as wages with guesswork about future trends or even solely in

the light of wages and prices in the past.

Therefore the curve was interpreted "as an option for government authorities to increase employment by pursuing an expansionary policy which raises inflation," the academy said.

Economists Milton Friedman and Edmund Phelps challenged this view, arguing that people would adjust to the increase in inflation and that the way they reacted, for example by demanding wage increases, would "preclude a lasting increase in employment."

But their arguments were not entirely convincing because they assumed that people would adapt as events unfolded or after the event.

Dr. Lucas invented and demonstrated his theory that people used forward-thinking or so-called rational expectation.

His model demonstrated that "any endeavour... to exploit the Phillips curve and permanently increase employment would be futile and only give rise to higher inflation."

"This is because agents (people) in the model adjust their expectations and hence price and wage formation to the new, expected policy."

The academy noted that experience in the 1970s and

1980s had shown that an increase in inflation did not increase employment permanently.

The work by Dr. Lucas "is now the foundation for monetary policy in a number of countries in their efforts to achieve and maintain a low and stable inflation rate."

His work in challenging straightforward assumptions behind many types of economic model had far-reaching implications and could be applied in many fields. It had a "profound influence" on the setting of economic policies which "often produce a completely different outcome if the agents adapt their expectations to the new policy stance."

Governments now considered as standard practice how people would adapt to expected changes in interest rates, taxes or unemployment benefit.

Dr. Lucas had moved on to the so-called equilibrium theory of business cycles and had created a new field of econometrics known as rational expectations econometrics.

He had also made "outstanding" contributions to investment and monetary theory, international finance and the theory of economic growth, the academy said.

World Bank says donors may cut benefits to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cuts in U.S. support for loans to the world's poorest countries could lead other donors to limit the number of World Bank contracts going to Americans, bank president James Wolfensohn said Tuesday.

Mr. Wolfensohn said if the United States sharply reduces funds committed for bank lending, as proposed in Congress, other countries would not likely make up the shortfall. If they did, he said, there could be conditions.

"I'm not at all sure they'd put in the money, first of all," he said, adding, "if they did, it would not surprise me if there was some parallel set up... which would be to seek to exclude the United States from the benefits of those funds."

The World Bank says the United States gets back seven per cent more than it contributes to the bank, with added business and jobs.

Mr. Wolfensohn said an arrangement that puts limits on such benefits would appear to be equitable if contribution are cut.

The Clinton administration

has asked for \$1.4 billion to fulfill current U.S. commitments to the bank's International Development Association (IDA) fund, which lends to the world's poorest countries. The House has proposed to cut that to \$755 billion, and the Senate would make it \$775 billion.

A decade ago, when the United States contributed less than it pledged, governments that helped make up the shortfall imposed a condition that U.S. companies could not bid on contracts for any projects arising from that contribution.

The Joint Development Committee of the bank and the International Monetary Fund said Monday that the fight against poverty is seriously threatened by possible reductions in contributions from the United States.

Such loans go largely to countries where the average citizen earns \$600 a year or less.

"Budget cutting by the U.S. Congress has led to delays and likely large reductions in the size of the contribution by IDA's leading donor," World Bank Presi-

dent James Wolfensohn told the joint Development Committee of the bank and its sister body, the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The World Bank lends the money on easy terms through IDA. The Development Committee includes finance ministers from the 179 member countries of the two organisations.

Mr. Wolfensohn said at a news conference Monday that he had no assurances from the 33 other donors that they would not follow the United States in reducing their contributions to the \$18 billion pot.

"The committee recognised that funding reductions facing IDA present a very serious risk to poverty reduction and economic growth in the world's poorest countries," members said in a joint statement.

They said the bank and fund should speed up their social spending and poverty reduction programmes. They argued that increasing access by the poor to land, credit and basic services would promote broad growth with many new jobs.

Sudan raises prices of fuel, newspapers

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudan increased the price of fuel Tuesday after the value of the pound dropped by up to 50 per cent.

Announcements carried by local media said fuel would cost between 15.4 per cent and 25 per cent more in a move that will further worsen the plight of millions of Sudanese already struggling with high unemployment and inflation.

Gasoline was hiked from 1300 Sudanese pounds to 1500 pounds (\$1.73 to \$2) a gallon. Diesel prices were raised from 600 to 750 pounds a gallon (80 cents to \$1).

A cylinder of cooking gas — used by most Sudanese households — went from 4000 to 4500 pounds (\$5.3 to \$6).

After the government allowed private exchange offices to open last month, the Sudanese pound took a dive as people flocked to change their hard currency at better rates.

The bank rate fell from 500 pounds to 750 pounds to the dollar, a 50 per cent devaluation. The black market rate went from 600 to 800 pounds to the dollar, a 33 per cent

devaluation.

On Thursday, the government will increase the price of two newspapers from 150 pounds to 200 pounds (20 cents to 26 cents).

Sudanese unions have demanded the government close the exchange offices, saying they feared the devalued pound would cause price increases and further erode workers' fixed salaries.

An average worker in Sudan makes between 5,000 and 10,000 Sudanese pounds a month (\$6.6 to \$13.3). Sporadic salary hikes have not kept up with inflation at more than 50 per cent.

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"There goes my beeper! That means my cat wants something!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YAMEL...
LODEY...
LAHNE...
BALLOG...

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABIDE CLOAK HERMIT CHISEL
Answer: Salt lovers find it difficult to do this — SHAKE THE HABIT.

THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

- Die out
- Arabic sea
- Did in
- Author Turgenev
- Coll. in New Eng.
- Head of France
- Candid
- Way off
- Makes a request
- Unnerve
- Sidackick
- Speaker before
- Gingrich
- Play plan
- Fake illness
- Safe
- Grande
- Units of work
- Gave and
- Buile
- Utmost
- Gem surface
- Affluent folk
- Takes away from
- Abandon
- Asian rulers
- Whippersnapper
- Green film
- Justice Thomas
- Make — for it (Wee)
- Flicker flick
- Data
- Copy Corot
- Squadron
- Rule enforcers
- Dehiscent seed
- Vessels
- Solitary

DOWN

- Wind
- Instrument
- English river
- Rapid, sudden movement
- Goes abroad
- Newsman
- Friendship
- Tom attire
- Hardwood tree
- New York island
- Cooperstown hurler
- List extender
- "The Way We"
- Takes a leisurely walk
- Gives a leg up
- Touched ground
- Weakness
- Squander
- du jour
- Space film (with "The")
- Some people
- Diving duck
- Rule the — (dominate)
- Amount of current
- Artist Marcel
- Far from tacky
- James of "The Godfather"
- Courage
- Large beasts, for short
- Makes blueprints
- Fit in
- Duo
- Composer Thomas
- Ad award
- Forbidden act
- Slot insert
- Novel
- ending
- Mouth

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

SABY LASER GRAB
LURE OMANT ROSE
IRAS GOLDPLATED
PASSPORT EOLITS
SITS SEAU
ANTRA OPAL ACIO
TEA STRANO TOOO
JICK HASTE EPOS
ELKE OTTERS PRE
ELSE SOAR TAEED
NEER BOER
ASONE DIALECTS
STEELWORKS VEAL
STONS ORNOIT ENTO
TWOIS KRONE STAG

Peanuts

HOW COME WE NEVER WIN? DO YOU THINK HE HAS CARDS UP HIS SLEEVE?

I DON'T THINK HE NEEDS A SLEEVE.

Andy Cap

SHOULD I TRY MY LUCK WITH THE LITTLE DARTING JACK?

UP TO YOU, ANDY, YOU'RE THE LUCKY!

LIVE DANGEROUSLY, EH?

EXACTLY.

WITH HIS JUDGMENT, HE TAKES A CHANCE EVERY TIME HE USES IT.

Mutt'n'Jeff

YOU THINK SO MUCH OF YOUR OLD GOLF? YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE MARRIED!

OF COURSE I DO, M'LOVE!

IT WAS THE DAY I SANK THAT THIRTY-FOOT PUTT!

WHEN?

MUTT, IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP GOLF, I'LL LEAVE YOU FLAT!

GOSH, M'LOVE, NO! I'LL...

YOU'LL WHAT?

I'LL MISS YOU!

Public sector strike brings France close to a halt

PARIS (R) — A one-day strike by five million public sector workers in France brought railways, buses, underground trains, schools, post offices and a host of other services and state-owned firms to a near-standstill Tuesday.

Unions called the stoppage, the biggest in almost a decade, in protest against the conservative government's refusal to raise civil service pay next year beyond its contractual commitments.

In Paris, millions of commuters were forced to walk or cycle to work, or spend hours in traffic jams, as public transport slowed to a skeleton service. Swarms of young Parisians took to their roller-skates.

Transport officials said at least four of 15 lines in the capital's metro underground railway system were closed. On others, the service was cut to just 10 per cent.

Traffic jams plagued the morning rush-hour, with motorways into the city clogged by queues of up to 15 kilometres. Rubbish piled up on pavements as dustmen joined the strike.

The stoppage, dubbed "black Tuesday," tested the austerity policies of Prime Minister Alain Juppe, buffeted in the past month by a falling franc, plummeting popularity and a housing scandal.

Across France, an average of 70 per cent of teachers stayed away from schools.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Civic and practical affairs should be handled wisely at this time, and you can make great progress. Contact a powerful person who can be of assistance.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look to new friends for those novel ideas which appeal to you, and then make good use of them towards your being successful. Dress in style and be the envy of all.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have fine ideas and can put them in operation quickly and gain the progress you desire in your chosen field of endeavour. Make new contacts who have information.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A clever person in business can give good pointers so that you can become more successful, so listen carefully to what is presented and gain knowledge.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your judgement is good today and you have clever ideas so think constructively and put them in operation quickly so you will be noticed one in authority.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You have good ideas just how to profit from your talents at this time and can make a big name for yourself in the eyes of bigwigs.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get in touch with good friends and plan recreations which are mutually liked. You can come to a real understanding with the one you love.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be more cognizant of what kin's needs are and try to help them today. The evening is fine for inviting friends and close associates into your home.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more friendly with contacts in the outside world and you get better results. This is a good day for handling important communications.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Use a more modern system in handling property affairs and get better results in your career activities. Consult with experts for ideas.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have good ideas today just how to gain your personal aims and find that a conservative friend can also be of help to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may have rather strange ideas on how to make your existence better, so weed out the bad and concentrate on the good for best results.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline



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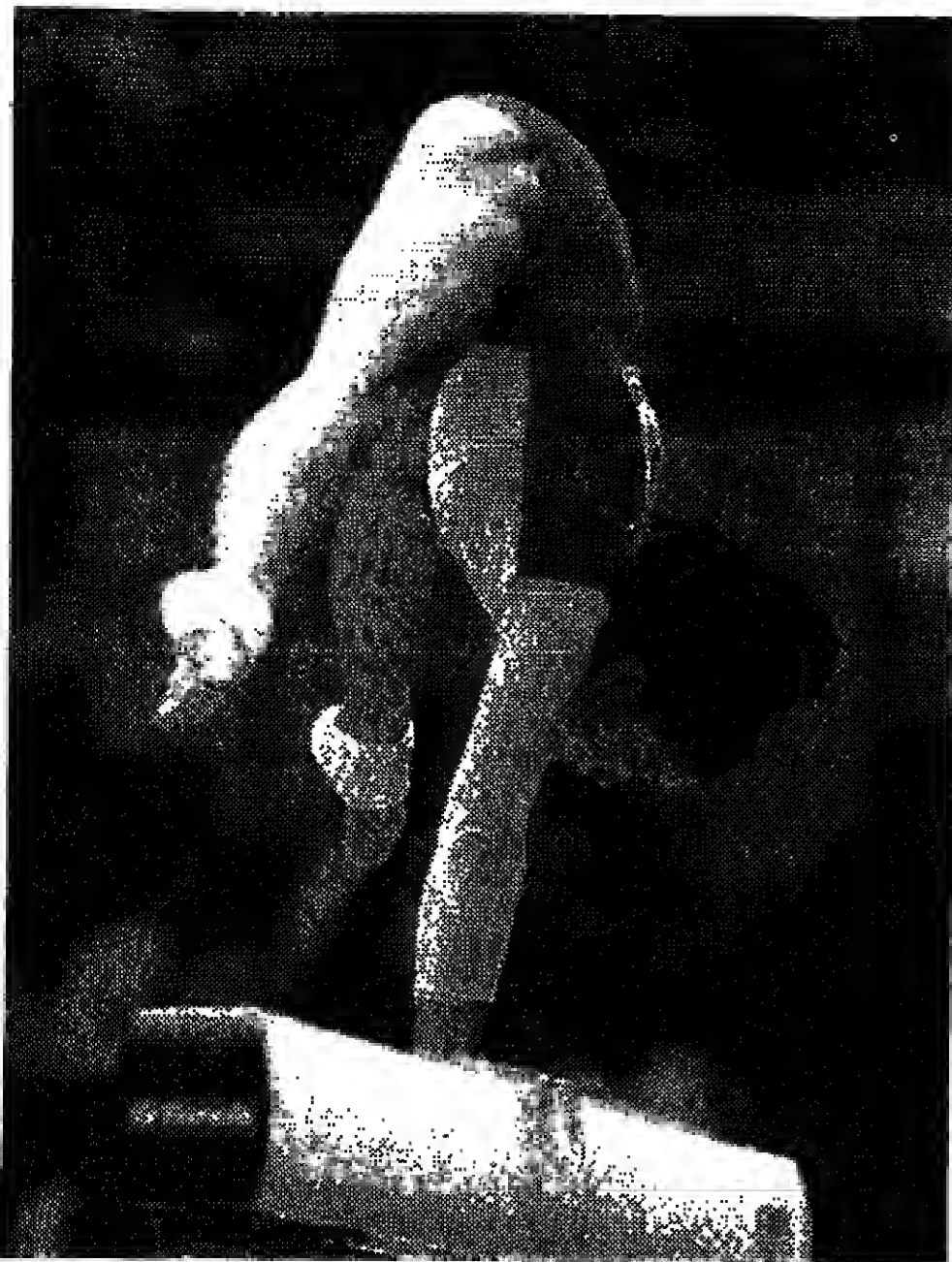
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THE INTERCONTINENTAL

COCKTAILS, SNACKS & LIVE MUSIC



Mo Huilan of China performs to win the balance beam in the apparatus finals at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)

China's Mo wins on beam; Scherbo adds another gold

SABAE, Japan (R) — Vitaly Scherbo reminded the world he will be a force to be reckoned with at next year's Atlanta Olympics when he won his second gold on the ninth and final day of the World Gymnastics Championships on Tuesday.

Tiny Mo Huilan claimed China's third title with a high score of 9.9 points on the beam. While Gina Gogean also raised Romania's golden tally to three with a near-flawless performance in the floor exercise.

Belarusian Scherbo, who won six gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, grabbed the parallel bars crown from defending champion Huang Liping of China after retaining his floor exercise title on Monday. He was also silver medalist in the all-round competition.

Scherbo, who in the post-competition press conference played court jester and interpreter as well as gold medalist, received 9.812 points for a flowing sequence on the parallel bars which finished with a tucked backward double salto. Huang scored 9.750 and had to settle for the silver medal.

"It was really hard to get two gold medals. Now it's getting harder and harder. But I will try to get more gold medals at the European Championships, the world championships and the Olympic games — of course," Scherbo said. Andreas Wecker gave Ger-

many their first gold of the championships and celebrated the first world title of his career for a routine on the horizontal bar which included a double flip above the bar. He scored a commanding 9.812 points.

"I've been going through my exercise in my dreams and today I think I was physically able to come up trumps as well," said Wecker, who celebrated his victory with a Beer Asag cigarette.

The raucous capacity crowd at the Sun Dome had a home performance to cheer when Yoshiaki Hatakeda took the silver with 9.775 points.

Russian Alexei Nemov, winner of three gold medals at this year's European Cup, shared the vault title with Grigory Misutin.

Nemov, 19, produced two solid vaults with perfect landings, while the baby-faced Misutin snatched the highest single score of 9.8 points for his first effort which incorporated a difficult stretched salto with two full twists.

"I'm very happy to win my first gold medal in the world championships," he said. "The only problem was that I had to use chopsticks in Japan and I've never learned how to."

Gina Gogean was hugely satisfied that she managed to compile a near-flawless floor exercise after seeing all her rivals make significant errors. Mo, the pre-championship favourite, convincingly led

the field after the team event but saw her hopes of winning the all-round competition evaporate when she fell from the beam. She made amends in the individual beam final on Tuesday.

"I tried to forget what happened in the all-round competition so I could be more relaxed today," said the tiny 1.30-metre Mo, who beamed and giggled her way through the press conference.

She ended her beautifully balanced sequence with a gravity-defying tucked double backward salto to place her leagues ahead of her two main rivals, Lilia Podkopaeva and Dominique Moceanu.

Podkopaeva's sparkling routines brought her victory in the all-round competition — Ukraine's first-ever world title — and a shared gold in Monday's vault. Joint runner-up on the asymmetric bars on Monday, she shared a second place again on Tuesday — this time with Moceanu on the beam.

U.S. medal hopes in Atlanta next year will be pinned on the elfin Moceanu, the youngest U.S. all-round champion who turned 14 on Saturday.

Moceanu, whose parents are Romanian, came fifth in the all-round competition. Fellow American Shannon Miller, twice all-round champion and last year's champion on the beam, was fourth with 9.762 points.



Grigory Misutin of Ukraine jumps onto the horse to share the gold with Russia's Alexei Nemov in the apparatus finals at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)



Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus congratulates as he flips over the parallel bars on his way to win gold in the apparatus finals at the World Gymnastics Championships (Reuters photo)

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European Community Chamber Orchestra in concert at the Prince Hassan Auditorium of the University of Jordan on Friday 13 October 1995 at 8:00 p.m.

Ticket price 5 JD (3 JD for students) Tickets available at the Goethe Institut, the British Council, the Instituto Cervantes and the French Cultural Centre and at the venue. The Orchestra will hold a workshop with students of the National Music Conservatory on Saturday 14 October 1995 at 16:30.

Revenue will be given to charity

Searchers express pessimism over missing French climbers

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Rescue workers searching for two French climbers missing in the Himalayas for five days expressed pessimism Tuesday after again failing to find any trace of the men, a Nepalese Tourism Ministry source told AFP.

Benoit Chamouk, 34, from Paris, and Pierre Royer, 43, a cameraman from the Alpine town of Les Houches, went missing on October 5 while heading for the summit of 8,586-metre Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest

mountain.

"From the Nepalese side, a rescue helicopter bombed the Kanchenjunga mountain from both northern and southern routes but failed to find any sign of the two ill-fated mountaineers," said a radio message from rescuers at the mountain's base camp, received in Kathmandu.

But the search would continue, the tourism ministry said.

An Indian rescue helicopter had also searched for the missing French climbers from

the Indian side of the Kanchenjunga, which lies on the Nepal-Indian frontier. But it also failed to find evidence of the climbers, said a French mountaineering source who declined to be identified.

The source said two Sherpas climbed to 8,200 metres "bid returned without any information about the missing French climbers."

The French climbers were last seen moving together, slowly and exhausted, above 8,200 metres, the source said.

He said the search would continue for two more days. Though officially the climbers are said to be missing, mountaineering organiza-

tions say the two are presumed dead.

The two men were members of a six-member expedition led by Michel Pelle, 48, a mountain guide from Chamounix.

Nepalese Tourism Ministry officials have so far only confirmed the death of Riku Sherpa, 33, a mountain guide from Solukhumbu in Everest region, who fell 400 metres (1,320 feet) while carrying a load for the French climbers.

The climbers were attempting to reach the top from a camp at 7,800 metres via the technically difficult southwest face, according to a ministry official.

Steeplechaser Kiptanui set to switch races

NAIROBI (R) — World record holder Moses Kiptanui has nothing more to prove in his speciality steeplechase and a switch to other distance races is imminent, the Kenyan athlete said in interviews published on Monday.

"I feel there is nothing for me to prove. But I am still looking to running under eight minutes five to six times," Kiptanui told the East African, a weekly printed in Nairobi.

Kiptanui became the first man ever to run the 3,000 metres steeplechase in seven minutes 59.18 seconds when he set the world record at the globe's most expensive meeting in Zurich last August.

He has said next year's Atlanta Olympics final was likely to be his last steeplechase because he still had no Olympic gold and then he would switch to 1,500 and 5,000 metres.

Responding to criticism that top African athletes skipped the all Africa Games to run for money in

Europe, Kiptanui said:

"This is nonsense. After all, who doesn't want money in life. People should understand that athletics is now big business. Most athletes train hard to better their living."

Kiptanui also attacked the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA) for what he called unfair treatment of young athletes: "In many ways up-and-coming athletes are not treated well by the KAAA. This is a major issue."

He added: "The association must learn to listen to the views of the athletes."

Kiptanui warned against complacency by the Kenyans, saying the world was learning Kenyan training techniques and methods and even the steeplechase could not for long be considered a Kenyan preserve.

In an interview with the daily Nation, Kiptanui said he was planning to regain "sometime next year" the 5,000 metres world record he lost to Ethiopian Haile Gebreselassie last August.

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AAQ 063 0AQ 1054 AJ983

The bidding has proceeded: EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

2nd Pass 3rd Pass

Pass ?

Weak ?

Preemptive

What action do you take?

A - It sounds as if this is your hand, but the spade shortage prevents you from making a takeout double. The solution is to bid three no trump. Since you didn't act at your first turn, this cannot be natural. It can only be for takeout with accent on the minor suits.

Q.2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AQJ94 0KJ752 064 A65

The bidding has proceeded: NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1st Pass 2nd Pass

3rd Pass ?

What action do you take?

A - Partner's bid shows a balanced hand and invites you to game if you are at the top of your range. With seven high-card points, two doubletons and a fifth trump, it would be foolish of you to bid less than four hearts.

Q.3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAQ883 065 067 AA842

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1st Pass 1st Pass

2nd Pass 2nd Pass

What action do you take?

A - Partner's bidding describes a hand of 10 points or fewer with no particular liking for either of your suits and almost surely a six-card diamond suit, so where would you like to go? Pass.

Q.4 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAQJ75 0AQ882 0A7 A6

The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1st Pass 1st Pass

2nd Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A - With five cards in each major, your hand is simply too good not to insist on game. Jump shift to three hearts. No matter what partner bids, complete the description of your hand by rebidding four hearts.

Q.5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

A8 0A87 0J742 A8J783

The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH SOUTH WEST

1st 1st 2nd ?

What do you bid now?

A - The problem with responding two clubs is that it would leave you in an untenable position on the next round because partner will be expecting another bid from you. Suppose partner rebids two hearts. A raise to three hearts would be a distinct overbid, while passing could result in a missed game. You avoid the problem by raising to two hearts now.

Q.6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AJ2 0K99 0AQ976 A882

The bidding has proceeded: WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1st 1st 2nd ?

What action do you take?

A - With 15 high-card points facing a partner who made a vulnerable overall, we would not be prepared to stop short of game. To protect our positional club stopper, we would opt for three no trump. Partner can always correct if his hand is unsuitable for no-trump play.

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Paul Gascoigne

Forget Gazza, England boss tells his stand-ins

LONDON (AFP) — England coach Terry Venables will have a clear message for his midfield men in Norway on Wednesday — forget Paul Gascoigne.

Gascoigne misses the friendly international through injury, giving Newcastle star Robert Lee and Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp the chance to prove themselves at the top level.

But the last thing Venables wants is for the duo to try and emulate the Glasgow Rangers star.

"You cannot copy Gascoigne," he said. "But I'm not saying there's nobody as good as him — it's just that he's so different, he's unique. But if he's not playing, others can offer different things. They are all in the squad as they are outstanding at what they do at the top level. And maybe they do some things better than him in different areas of the game."

Lee, at 29, is an international late developer but he scored on his debut against Romania a year ago and replaced Gazza in the goalless draw against Colombia last month.

"He did well, scoring against Romania and playing against Nigeria, and then was injured," recalls Venables. "But he's a very intelligent player, very similar to Platt in that he will score goals from midfield."

"He has a good touch and his tackling is also good — a good all-rounder who has done remarkably well for Newcastle."

Redknapp, a former under-21 captain, is the more creative player who did well

in Gascoigne's shadow against the South Americans. "He's coming along well," says Venables. "The youngsters are getting opportunities because of injuries but are staking their claim every time they play. They know if they are to be serious about breaking through they must do that every time."

The match has a special significance for England, who have not beaten Norway for four matches and who lost disastrously 2-0 when they last visited Oslo.

Norwegian manager Egil Olsen has been guarding Venables recently, saying he has ruined England's strengths by trying to play a passing game.

But the England boss retorted: "He's not going to very successful, he won't wind me up."

Venables looks set to make at least three changes, with Gary Pallister returning for Steve Hovewy to partner Tony Adams at the centre of defence and former captain Stuart Pearce winning his 60th cap at left back in place of injured Graeme Le Saux.

On the right, Gary Neville could win his fourth cap although Rob Jones is fit and challenging for his position.

The big dilemma remains Alan Shearer or Les Ferdinand as the lone front man. Probable team: Seaman (Arsenal), Neville (Manchester United), Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Adams (Arsenal), Pallister (Manchester United), Wise (Chelsea), Redknapp (Liverpool), Lee (Newcastle), Shearer (Blackburn), Barnaby (Middlesbrough), McManama (Liverpool).

Ivanisevic given a roasting by Gloria

TOKYO (AFP) — Goran Ivanisevic suffering from a fever survived a scare with American qualifier Louis Gloria in his opening match in defence of the Tokyo Seiko Super ATP title here on Tuesday winning 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 7-6 (9/7).

The hard-hitting Croat had to fight back from match point down and committed one of his 14 double faults when serving for the second round match. His erratic serving also cost him a chance to win the first set.

But Ivanisevic eventually quashed the spirited challenge

in two hours 21 minutes. "The first match is always difficult. Gloria had already played the first round and he had nothing to lose. He played really good in the tie-breaker," said Ivanisevic.

"I had a high fever six days ago and I'm not feeling good yet. I hope I will have a quicker match in the next two rounds," he added.

In the third round, the second seed will take on Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, who eliminated 10th-seeded Aaron Krickstein of the United States 6-4, 6-0.

Ferreira advances, Korda out at Czech Indoor

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, seeded third, beat Czech wildcard Otakar Jurecka 6-1, 6-4 in first round action at the \$400,000 Czech Indoor men's tennis tournament in Ostrava Monday.

But fifth-seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic was upset by unseeded countryman Jiri Novak.

Ferreira took a commanding 5-0 lead and won the first set in twenty minutes. In spite of some improvement in the second set, the Czech had no chance against the number three seed and lost 4-6.

Novak then upset Korda 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), 6-0, prevailing in the final set with sharp groundstrokes from the baseline.

In other first round action, Joost Wijnok of the Netherlands upset eighth-seeded Argentinian Javier Frana 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) and Germany's Patrick Kuehnen beat Greg Rusedski of Great Britain 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8-6).

Top seed Yevgeni Kafelnikov of Russia and second-seeded Marc Rosset of Switzerland join tournament's first round action on Tuesday.

Kasparov draws the 17th game, retains title

NEW YORK (AP) — Garry Kasparov retained his world chess title Monday when he held on to draw the 17th game of his championship match with Viswanathan Anand, raising the score to 10-7 in his favour.

The winner of the 20-game Professional Chess Association contest must score 10.5 points, but match rules state that in the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov would keep his title.

It is Kasparov's fifth successful defence of the title he won in 1985.

The 18th game, scheduled for Tuesday, was to decide the division of the \$1.35 million prize fund, which was reduced from \$1.5 million. Match spokesman Andrew Finan said the prize fund had been lowered 10 per cent to pay for additional organisational and promotion costs.

The winner will receive \$900,000 and the loser \$450,000. If Anand wins the remaining three games to tie the contest, the prize money will be split.

Playing with the white pieces, Anand, 25, of India, came close to defeating Kasparov, but the champion held on in a difficult endgame.

On the 63rd move, Anand was forced to trade down to a totally dead king versus king position. With no other pieces on the board, the players agreed to a draw.

When play began, Kasparov, 32, of Russia, played the

razor-sharp dragon variation of the Sicilian defence.

Play mirrored the two men's 11th game and until Anand's 13th move. The challenger rejected the possibility of launching an all-out checkmating attack. Instead, he chose to trade down to an advantageous endgame where his pieces were more active than the champion's.

In the endgame, each side had a king, a rook and six pawns. Anand was able to manoeuvre his rook to the queen's side and win a key pawn.

But on the 37th move, Anand allowed Kasparov to trade off his dangerous "b" pawn, reducing white's winning chances. Anand thrust his "a" pawn on the board, but Kasparov was able to surround it and win it on the 47th move.

On his 49th move, Anand pushed his "f" pawn up the board and managed to promote it into a queen on his 59th move. But Kasparov was able to trade his rook for the queen and push his own centre pawn up the board.

On the 63rd move, Anand sacrificed his rook for the pawn, and the players agreed to a draw.

In the final position Kasparov would be able to capture Anand's rook, leading to a hopelessly drawn position with just the kings on the board.

"Anand kept his promise," said Indian chess writer V. Krishnaswamy. "He took

one more shot at Kasparov." Kasparov said it was difficult to play knowing he had a three-point lead and only needed a draw.

"The only way to prepare psychologically was to consider this the last game of the match and it gave me the strength to survive," Kasparov said.

The champion agreed with commentators who said Anand had missed a win on the 37th move.

"I was surprised Visy didn't go for that," he said. Despite the stunning views of the New York City skyline from the windows of the 107th floor observation deck at the World Trade Centre, the eyes of about 600 spectators were locked on the chess moves.

Kasparov said his loss in the ninth game of the contest, which gave Anand the lead, was not his worst moment in the contest. He said that came just before the first game.

"Before the match, I could feel I wasn't using all my potential and that was scary," Kasparov said. But he said Anand's victory spurred him into action.

"It took enormous energy, I started working like I never did in my life," he said.

Kasparov was asked whether he would play for a win on Tuesday or settle for a draw.

"I haven't decided yet, but I hoped that the match will be over tomorrow," he said.



Garry Kasparov of Russia, ponders a move as opponent Viswanathan Anand of India, background, returns from a break during their match in New York (Reuters photo)

Russia go to Italy for Davis Cup

LONDON (R) — This year's finalists Russia lose their cherished, if controversial, home advantage in the 1996 Davis Cup which was drawn on Tuesday, travelling to Italy for their first-round tie.

The Russians, who have played at home for the last three rounds of this year's event and meet the U.S. in the final in Moscow in December, were embroiled in a row after the semifinals.

The tie was delayed amid accusations from opponents Germany that the court had been sabotaged to help the slow-court skills of the home side.

Germany, who lost the semifinal 3-2 after a nail-biting final match during which Michael Stich failed to convert nine match points against Andrei Chesnokov, are drawn for the 1996 competition against Switzerland, who have choice of venue.

The United States, who have won the competition 30 times since it started in 1900, have home advantage over Mexico in the first round.

'China table tennis championships flopped'

NIMES, France (AFP) — World Cup tournament director Patrick Birocheau branded the table tennis world championships in China earlier this year as "the worst ever organised."

Mr. Birocheau, who will run the first ever men's singles World Cup in Europe from Oct. 12 to 15 here, believed the Tianjin world event in May was far from a credit to the sport.

Mr. Birocheau is a former world-class French international with vast experience of the game — he even knocked out defending champion Istvan Jonyer of Hungary in the 1977 world championships in England.

But Mr. Birocheau, a former teammate of table tennis legend and 1976 European champion Jacques Secretil and current French coach Christian Martin, had no doubts about China's poor organisation at Tianjin.

"Each round was played at the same time — for instance the last 16 had four matches in the main hall and four matches in another hall, meaning spectators could only watch one of the match-

es," Mr. Birocheau said on Tuesday.

He was therefore determined to organise this 16-strong, World Cup invitation event, with a high quality field, with the spectator in mind.

He added only one table would be used throughout the four-day event, enabling people to see every point of every match.

Special lighting would be used to spotlight the table area.

The players will also be presented to the public before the match and will be asked to speak on the public address system afterwards.

And a giant screen, using creative use of television pictures, will also replay any spectacular points.

"In my view, this is the way forward for the sport. It must be made more attractive to the spectator," he added.

Meanwhile African champion Sule Olaleye of Nigeria, North American champion Johnny Huang, and Cuba's South American champion Francisco de Armas were due to arrive in Nimes on Tuesday.

2 Japanese expeditions scale Himalayan peak

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Two Japanese expeditions have scaled the world's sixth highest peak on the same day, the tourism ministry said Tuesday.

The teams reached the top of Dhaulagiri-1 from the northeast ridge on Oct. 6, it said in a statement. The peak is 8,167 metres high.

Four members of the Japan Snow Leopard Dhaulagiri-1 expedition were accompanied by two Nepali guides. Two members of the other team, the Miyazaki University Dhaulagiri-1 expedition, also were accompanied by two guides during the ascent, the ministry said.

The Snow Leopard team consisted of Kazuyoshi Kondo, 54, Iwao Kuwabara, 60, Sumito Takeda, 30 and Takaharu Hayashi, 44.

The five-member expedition, which was permitted to climb the peak from the northeast ridge, was led by Kondo, a mountaineering instructor. His first name was not immediately available.

The two climbers from the university were Kimio Narasaki, 49, and Keiji Ueda, 23.

De Villiers fails 2nd drugs test

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African Lisa de Villiers, the youngest athlete to fail a drugs test, has tested positive for the same substance for the second time in five months.

A statement issued on Tuesday by Athletics South Africa (ASA) Secretary General Banele Sindani said 14-year-old de Villiers was tested on September 24 and "the results still showed the presence of an anabolic steroid, nandrolone."

The statement said ASA "would like to believe that the presence of this substance is still related to the test done in April 1995."

"We will have to investigate the reasons for the positive test afresh," Sindani said.

De Villiers was banned for four years after testing positive for the anabolic

steroid nandrolone and the stimulant fenamfamine at the national junior championships in April. She had competed in the under-17 100 metres, 200 metres and long jump.

According to International Amateur Athletic Federation rules, athletes must make themselves available for three out-of-competition tests during the banned period. The September test was the first of the three for de Villiers.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli 'tourists' make secret visit to Baghdad

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Dozens of Israelis of Iraqi origin have travelled to Iraq, a leading foe of the Jewish state, and returned to tell of secret visits to Baghdad, state radio reported Tuesday. It said Turkish border guards allowed the Israeli "tourists," including Kurdish Jews, to cross into Kurd-held northern Iraq because their passports showed their Iraqi origins. "I wanted to visit the grave of my parents and our saints because there's nothing left," said Sarah Hatan, 64, who lives in the Galilee region of northern Israel, after her 10-day visit to a Kurdish town. "The Iraqis have built over the cemetery and all I found were scattered bones," she said. Others travelled south to the Iraqi capital with the help of bodyguards and guides, at a cost of thousands of dollars each, the radio said. None of them was detained. They visited Jewish graves in Baghdad and met family members, some of them converts to Islam. The radio cautioned that Israel's embassy in Turkey does not advise such expeditions.

Killer of tourists found dead near Tangier

TANGIER (R) — A policeman who shot dead two British tourists in the north Moroccan city of Tangier last week has been found dead after he apparently committed suicide, Moroccan police said on Tuesday. "Security forces found the killer in a house situated few kilometres north of Tangier. He seemed to have committed suicide," a police spokesman told Reuters. The killer had been identified as off-duty police inspector Mustapha Hamouch, a 39-year-old father of four who went on a shooting spree at a seaside hotel last Friday after killing his wife. Three other tourists, including 12-year-old British schoolgirl Charlean Barker Hall, were wounded in the attack at the Tariq Hotel. Moroccan security police and para-military units have been hunting the killer with identity checks and roadblocks set up in northern Morocco.

Billion-dollar case against Rabin opens

CAIRO (AFP) — A billion-dollar law suit brought against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin opened in Egypt Tuesday seeking compensation for the massacres of Egyptian prisoners of war (POWs) during the 1956 and 1967 wars. But the court in the Nile Delta town of Dammanhur in north Egypt said Israel had not received any official notification of the suit, the lawyer who filed the suit, Hanan Subbi Al Shami, told AFP. The Israeli embassy in Cairo had refused to accept the notification of the suit, the hearing was told. So the court ordered Egypt's prosecutor general to ask the Foreign Minister to pass it on to Israel through diplomatic channels and the case was adjourned until Dec. 12, Mr. Shami said.

Abdul Meguid to attend summit in Amman

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid will attend a Middle East economic conference in Amman later in October, a league spokesman said here on Tuesday. Talaat Hamud announced Dr. Meguid would go to Jordan for the Oct. 29-31 summit in Amman in which more than 60 countries are to take part. The league head will then go to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Oct. 30 to meet President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan to discuss reconciliation between Arab states after the 1991 Gulf war.

'Toxic waste secretly stored in Lebanon'

BEIRUT (AFP) — The environmentalist watchdog Greenpeace on Tuesday accused Lebanon of secretly gathering toxic waste from Italy and stockpiling it ahead of incineration. "Authorities in Lebanon are now secretly collecting toxic waste barrels and contaminated land for planned incineration in Europe in the coming months," said Greenpeace spokesman for the Mediterranean Fuad Hamdan. Mr. Hamdan slammed the operation as an "ecological crime," citing the lack of special storage sites in Lebanon. "Most of the toxic waste is still near its original dumping or storage sites close to residential areas, thus endangering the population. They should be stored in special sites in line with international standards," Mr. Hamdan told a press conference in Beirut. More than 50 barrels were stored last week in a construction site for a new government hospital on the southern outskirts of Beirut. According to press reports residents to the area complained of leaking gases.

Iraqi diplomat in Europe 'defects'

CAIRO (AP) — A former Iraqi diplomat in Europe has defected to Britain and joined an exiled opposition group trying to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the group said Tuesday. The diplomat was also a former head of protocol at the presidential palace in Baghdad, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement in London. The council did not identify him, but the Associated Press learned he was Huthaim Rashid Hassan, who served in embassies in Paris and Dakar, Senegal, before he was arrested in 1990. He was held for several months and reportedly interrogated by the Iraqi intelligence service before being released. The reason for his arrest was not known and he was later allowed to travel.

Suspected militants kill Egyptian policeman

CAIRO (AFP) — Suspected extremists killed a policeman Tuesday on his way home from work in southern Egypt. Three assailants ambushed Mohammed Abdul Fattah in Samallut, a region about 120 kilometres south of Cairo where Islamic militants have often clashed with police. The gunmen escaped, police said. Southern Egypt is the main site of clashes between the police and militants seeking to overthrow the government and install Islamic rule. More than 840 people have died in the violence since 1992, most of them police or extremists.

Opposition leader arrested in Tunisia

TUNIS (AFP) — The leader of Tunisia's main opposition party has been detained on suspicion of being a paid foreign agent, judicial sources said here Tuesday. They said Mohammed Mouada, the head of the Socialist Democratic Movement, was arrested Monday in a search of his home which uncovered documents detailing his "secret and compromising" links to a foreign country to exchange for large sums of money. Several thousand dollars were also seized at his home, the sources said, but they would not say which country Mr. Mouada was alleged to have worked for. Mr. Mouada has been under investigation since March last year when police held a foreign national who they said was preparing to hand him a large amount of hard currency. Although there was no official comment as to which country could have paid him, observers pointed to Libya with which Mr. Mouada has had relations on a party basis.

Lebanon's 'Mr. Clean' faces jail

BEIRUT (AFP) — A Lebanese prosecutor has indicated opposition deputy Najah Wakim on slander charges which could put him in jail for one year, court sources said on Tuesday. Prosecutor Abdullah Bitar says Mr. Wakim defamed Justice Minister Bahige Tabbara by accusing him of granting a company, with which Mr. Tabbara's wife has close ties, a contract to carry out repairs of the Justice Ministry. Mr. Tabbara denied any wrongdoing while Mr. Wakim promised to come up with proof of his accusation. Mr. Wakim, an opposition deputy dubbed "Mr. Clean" because of his virulent campaigns denouncing corruption in the government, has charged that he is the victim of pressure exerted by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.



FREE: A Palestinian youth makes the V-for-victory sign after his brother was freed from Israeli jail at the Nahal-Oz crossing point between the Gaza Strip and Israel as part of a prisoner release agreed upon in the Sept. 28 autonomy accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (AFP photo)

Kuwaitis' security jitters ease off

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis, hit again by security jitters about Iraq, were breathing easier on Tuesday after the government played down fears of an imminent new threat from their former occupier.

Diplomats and lawmakers said Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah had also shored up faltering confidence in the economy by staging a rare news conference to discuss rumours that Iraq might soon try to repeat its 1990 invasion.

At Monday's conference Sheikh Saad repeated his longstanding allegation that Iraq would try to stage fresh attacks on Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states at the first opportunity.

But he denied a Sept. 27 newspaper report that he had predicted Iraq would attempt this in the next three months. He said he did not know when Iraq would make a move.

Kuwaitis, who have expected nothing but the worst from Baghdad ever since its 1990-91 occupation, focused less on Sheikh Saad's warning of an Iraqi threat and more on his denial that he said one was imminent, diplomats said.

"I think he was trying to calm things down. If you read between the lines," Mr. Mohammad Al Sager, editor-in-chief of Al Qabas newspaper, told Reuters.

"Sheikh Saad reduced the tension caused two weeks ago. Basically he was saying nothing with respect to Iraq has changed," said independent economist Jassem Al Saadoun.

"Sheikh Saad has cleared up the ambiguity and extinguished the blaze of rumours (about Iraq) that had spread like wildfire," wrote Al Anba columnist Wael Al Hassawi. Confidence in the economy, still recovering from a battering during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, was jolted when Al Savasseh daily on Sept. 27 reported Sheikh Saad as saying that Iraq might try to invade again between October and December.

In subsequent days some bankers reported overseas contacts were reducing levels of business. Prices fell about one per cent on the stock exchange and some residents said they were preparing to move money out of the country.

After the news conference the exchange's price index finished trade on Monday up two points in steady volume.

Kuwaitis say they share Sheikh Saad's view that Iraq remains a long-term threat but many say sanctions-hit Baghdad is in no shape to make a sustained strike against its neighbours.

Mr. Saadoun said Sheikh Saad's comments had reduced the risk of a surge in capital flight and a possible run on the dinar.

Kuwaiti morale was also boosted by what deputies called Sheikh Saad's confident handling of the news conference and a mood of openness the event helped conjure up.

Sheikh Saad, relaxed and speaking without notes, made a statement and then took two hours of questions.

Peace national option for Jordan, Lawzi tells IPU

BUCHAREST (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi said Tuesday that the option for peace was unanimously endorsed by Jordan's leadership, people, and political and intellectual powers and that both the Jordanian leadership and people were unanimous on the need to build Jordan as a model country characterised by justice, freedom, equality, democracy and respect for human rights.

In an address to the 54th session of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) held at the Romanian capital of Bucharest, Mr. Lawzi called for a united position to counter war, injustice, denial of human rights, exploitation of and the unequal distribution of resources, poverty, illiteracy and diseases.

Mr. Lawzi called on the international community to adopt a common approach that respects human rights, particularly the right of people to live in peace within the framework of a just and fair system which does not allow the strong to threaten the weak.

Mr. Lawzi called for shifting the funds spent on arms of mass destruction to services benefiting the people and meeting their basic needs.

Mr. Lawzi on Monday met with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, the speaker of the Romanian Senate and heads of the delegations taking part in the meeting. He praised His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to establish peace and reviewed Jordan's democratic march, parliamentary life and political pluralism.

Mr. Lawzi spoke about the preparations under way in Jordan to host the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit and voiced hope that Romania will participate actively in the summit.

On Tuesday Mr. Lawzi met with IPU President Fathi Sour, who is also speaker of the Egyptian People's Council, and discussed with him the need to form an international parliamentary body which will be entrusted with encouraging inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue.

Such a dialogue will be very helpful in explaining the tolerant nature of Islam and refuting the incorrect accusations against Islam, and all attempts aimed at linking it with terrorism, extremism and violence, he said.

Mr. Lawzi said he had no intention of "the slightest interference" in interior Algerian affairs.

The most radical of the fundamentalists fighting Mr. Zeroual's regime, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), has been widely blamed for a series of bomb attacks in France, which it has accused of backing the regime in the former French colony.

There has been concern in France that any meeting between Mr. Zeroual and Mr. Chirac could inflame the situation further.

Violence continues

Gunmen killed a Muslim prayer leader outside his home in Algiers and a secular Berber activist was shot dead in the eastern town of Bouira, Algerian newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Two gunmen ambushed the 65-year-old mosque imam, Mohammed Bedoui, on Monday morning in the Bab Jedid sector of the old heart of Algiers and shot him in the head, Al Watan newspaper said.

At least 52 imams have been killed during the past year in attacks blamed on the militants campaigning to topple the government.

The mosques have been caught in the middle of a battle between authorities and Muslim activists.

Democracy is the only solution, Chirac to tell Zeroual at U.N.

MADRID (Agencies) — French President Jacques Chirac said on Tuesday he would meet Algerian President Liamine Zeroual this month in New York and would try to convince him that only by widening democracy will Algeria resolve its problems.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a two-day official visit to Spain, Mr. Chirac said Mr. Zeroual had asked him for the meeting to take place during ceremonies to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations at the end of October.

The former colonial power is anxious about not being seen to take sides in Algeria's civil war at a time when Algerian extremists have claimed responsibility for a wave of bomb attacks in France.

Mr. Chirac said he hoped to hear what the Algerian president has to say ahead of presidential elections in Algeria in the next few weeks, but would also tell him that he hoped for a widening of the democratic process there.

"What will I tell him? That there cannot be a solution to the Algerian problem unless it is a political one," he said.

"A first step has been taken with presidential elections, but in my opinion an

essential step is to constitute a legislative majority through parliamentary elections," he added.

He said he hoped that peace would return to Algeria as soon as possible to allow legislative elections, having first established a dialogue among all sectors of Algerian society.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said he too would take advantage of the U.N. ceremonies to talk to Mr. Zeroual. "This is an opportunity to ensure a dialogue on Algeria is intensified and is oriented towards a democratic solution," he said.

Mr. Zeroual is favourite to win a Nov. 16 presidential election, which the main secular and Islamic opposition parties are boycotting.

France's opposition Socialist Party has demanded a clarification of the country's relations with Algeria and some newspapers accused Mr. Chirac of having chosen "the generals' camp" in the civil war between the Army and rebels.

More than 30,000 people are estimated to have died since the army intervened in 1992 to cancel a general election which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was on the verge of winning.

Mr. Chirac insisted Tues-

Initial voting begins in Iraq plebiscite

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq geared up Tuesday for the country's presidential referendum, announcing the start of preliminary voting and criticising foreign journalists who began arriving to cover the poll.

The "advance vote" started on Monday and is to continue until Thursday. It includes officials overseeing the polling, interior security forces and others who will have to work during Sunday's elections.

About 7.5 million people over the age of 18 are eligible to vote among Iraq's 19 million residents in the referendum to endorse Saddam Hussein for another seven-year term as president, an official said.

The Iraqi press was critical of Western journalists arriving as part of the 10,000 foreigners invited to observe the poll.

11,400 children die

Iraq said Monday that 11,400 children were dying every month because of the crippling U.N. embargo slapped on the country more than five years ago.

Health Minister Umid Medhat told a conference in Baghdad that on average 5,500 children under the age of five were dying monthly, along with another 5,900 more than five years old.

He did not say what the death rate had been before the U.N. Security Council imposed an oil and trade embargo on the country after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

But the head of the Iraqi doctors' association, Nayef Hassuni, told the conference to examine the effects of the embargo, saying that the general death rate had tripled since 1989.

Dr. Medhat said the rise in the number of deaths was due to "a lack of medical materials and necessary equipment for cleaning, purifying water and the sewerage system."

"Some illnesses which Iraq had got rid of have reappeared," he added.

"The lack of medicines and food because of the embargo is a continued American aggression," the head of the Arab doctors union, Hassan Khoreich, said, referring to the U.S.-led coalition which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in February 1991.

Iraq has refused a U.N. offer to sell some oil to meet humanitarian needs, saying it was a violation of its sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the Al Thawra daily appealed to the U.N. Security Council to take into account Baghdad's cooperation on disarmament when it decides this week on whether to lift the sanctions.

The newspaper of the ruling Baath party said it would be "logical" for the Security Council to consider "the progress made by Iraq" on dismantling its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes.

"The Security Council must adopt a just position because Iraq has sincerely its obligations," the paper said.

However, Western diplomats in New York said the special U.N. panel on Iraq's disarmament was to deliver a downbeat report to the council which should delay any chance of easing U.N. sanctions on Baghdad.

COLUMN

Brazilian survives 20 hours trapped in a sewer

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — A 16-year old Brazilian survived 20 hours in a city sewer system after a flash flood swept him into an open drain. TV Globo reported Monday. Otacilio De Almeida Jr. was dragged about three miles (5-km) before he was discovered trapped under a drain cover by rescue workers in the town of Belo Horizonte, in Minas Gerais state, the television network said. He suffered bone fractures and had to be lifted out of the sewer after the cover was opened with an automatic saw. "I am so happy he's been found. It is as if he has been born again," his mother told TV Globo.

Where is O. J.? Caribbean state wonders

CASA DE CAMPO, Dominican Republic (R) — Reporters, television crew and the curious flew to a swanky Dominican resort hoping to track down O. J. Simpson, but he was nowhere to be found. At the Casa De Campo, the tourist paradise rumoured to be Simpson's destination, a desk clerk joked, "and there is where O. J. Simpson is staying," drawing an X at random on a map of the facility. The journalistic stampede was sparked by a report in Listín Diario, a daily newspaper in the capital Santo Domingo, that Simpson planned to fly to the Dominican Republic with girlfriend Paula Barbieri. The report said the couple might be planning a wedding at Casa De Campo.

China gives 'oldest awards' to 472

BEIJING (R) — China, a society that venerates longevity, has given awards to the 472 most outstanding old people of 1995, including an elite 48 singled out as the best. The 'oldest of the award-winning oldsters is 115, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. Seventeen winners are 100 years old or older and 72 are women, it added. The aim of the awards is to promote old people's physical health through a nationwide awareness campaign. To be eligible for an award, a person must be at least 80 years old, enjoy physical exercise and care about the next generation, the report said.

Dancing cops ease Bangkok traffic tensions

BANGKOK (R) — Sergeant Nikorn Pasuk puts on his uniform, straps on his pistol, slips into his gloves and laces up his dancing boots before going to work as a traffic policeman on Bangkok's clogged streets. Light on his toes despite the clunky boots, Sgt. Nikorn twists and turns and makes intricate arm movements with white-gloved hands — while directing traffic on one of Bangkok's busy thoroughfares. He is one of a small group of dancing policemen who are trying to change a negative image of Bangkok policemen and ease driver tensions by dancing as they direct traffic. "I think this is one of the things we can do to make drivers relax and be happy when they get stuck in traffic," Sgt. Nikorn said Tuesday after smiling his way through a rainy morning shift. The dancing traffic policeman idea was the brainchild of traffic inspector, Lieutenant Colonel

